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Japan

Hosokawa, Hata Continue Support for Yeltsin

OW0410011193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0041 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa pledged Japan's continued support for Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Monday [4 October] amid reports of fighting in Moscow. Hosokawa, speaking at a session of the House of Representatives budget committee, said he is worried about the unrest in Russia and earnestly hopes for an early return to law and order.

Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata told the same session that Japan is seriously concerned about developments in Moscow and regrets the bloodshed. "Japan hopes for an early settlement," he said. Hata added, "President Yeltsin's reform efforts must not be blocked, and Japan's support for his efforts will be unchanged."

Hosokawa and Hata were replying to questions from Shun Oide, a senior member of the Social Democratic Party, the largest of the seven parties in the ruling coalition, at the start of a three-day session of the panel attended by all cabinet members.

Earlier in the day, Hosokawa told reporters he is worried whether the situation in Moscow may affect Yeltsin's visit to Japan scheduled for October 11 to 13.

The prime minister said he has received no information on possible change in Yeltsin's scheduled visit, however.

A senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said preparations for Yeltsin's visit are under way as scheduled. But the official said there might be "an unfavorable effect" on the visit, noting that Yeltsin has twice canceled visits to Tokyo, first in September last year and then in May this year.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura told a news conference that Japan strongly hopes for an early restoration of law and order in Russia, as well as for the safety of the people of Moscow.

"The Japanese Government's position of supporting Yeltsin's reform efforts is unchanged," the top government spokesman said.

Takemura also said Tokyo will closely watch developments in the situation in Russia, hoping that Yeltsin will be able to go ahead with his October 11-13 visit to Japan.

"The Japanese Government hopes an early settlement will be achieved and that the presidential visit will be realized as scheduled," he said.

Further on Planned Visit by Russian President

Agenda for Talks Outlined

OW0110134493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1318 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 1 KYODO—Japan will not press Russia to provide documents reconfirming the 1956 joint declaration on a territorial dispute during President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan in mid-October, government sources said Friday [1 October]. Ongoing Russian political unrest will not enable Russia to reconfirm the declaration promising to return two of four Russian-held islands to Japan once a bilateral peace treaty is concluded, the sources said.

Instead, the sources said the Japanese Government is aiming to incorporate the reconfirmation into a Japan-Russia joint statement to be issued after a final round of talks between Yeltsin and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, the sources said. Hosokowa will remind Yeltsin of Russia's succession of the 1956 joint declaration and other treaties from the former Soviet Union, Foreign Ministry sources said.

"Japan does not consider one summit meeting will return the northern territories to Japan," a senior ministry official said.

Japan will give top priority to the improvement of relations between the two countries, the sources said.

Then Prime Minister Ichiro Hatoyama and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev held talks in Moscow in October 1956 and signed the joint declaration pledging to return the two islands—the Habomai group of islets and Shikotan—to Japan once both countries sign a peace treaty. But the Soviet Union issued a memorandum in 1960 saying that the declaration was void after Japan renewed the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in that year as Moscow and Washington stepped up confrontation in the Cold War. Conservatives battling Yeltsin for power are likely to use the territorial issue as a political tool against him if he makes any concessions to Japan, analysts say.

To Discuss DPRK Nuclear Issue

OW0210103993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1023 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will express concern over North Korea's suspected nuclear development program during their summit meeting to be held in Tokyo on October 13, government sources said Saturday. Working-level consultations between Tokyo and Moscow have appeared to agree that both leaders would express their concern in the second round of the meeting on a basis of a common awareness that Pyongyang's nuclear development program is a threat to peace and security in northeast Asia, the sources said.

The two leaders will confirm that both countries call on Pyongyang to accept the special inspections of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to come back to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), the sources said. The concern will be also incorporated in a joint Japan-Russia statement to be issued following the two rounds of talks between Hosokawa and Yeltsin on October 12 and 13, the sources said.

On Friday, the IAEA adopted a resolution demanding North Korea submit its suspect nuclear facilities in Yongbyong to the agency's inspections. The world nuclear watchdog organization noted that North Korea has failed to carry out its responsibilities under the IAEA's safeguards agreement and requested Pyongyang's immediate compliance with the inspections.

On March 12, North Korea announced it would pull out of the NPT that bans signatory nations without nuclear weapons from developing them. It later suspended its decision. Despite its refusal to comply with IAEA inspection demands, North Korea has denied U.S. allegations that it is developing nuclear weapons. North Korea, in talks with the U.S., agreed to reopen negotiations with the IAEA over the checks but has continued to refuse access to the Yongbyon complex, some 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang, suspected of housing a nuclear arms development project.

Official on Territories Issue

OW0210141793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1349 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Nemuro, Hokkaido, Oct. 2 KYODO—Management and Coordination Agency head Koshiro Ishida expressed skepticism Saturday about any significant progress on the "northern territories" dispute during the upcoming Russo-Japanese summit, citing the tense political situation in Moscow. He said at a news conference that Japan has to take the "political instability (in Russia)" into consideration when Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrives in Tokyo on October 11 for talks with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Ishida made the remarks after viewing from Nemuro a group of disputed islands for the first time since taking office in August. Ishida visited the Nemuro municipal office and was briefed by city officials on the four islands northeast of Hokkaido, which are held by Russia but claimed by Japan. Ishida said the Japanese Government will tenaciously continue negotiations with Russia for the return of the islands to Japanese rule despite the delicate political situation.

The islands—Shikotan, Kunashiri, Etorofu and the Habomai group of islets—were seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II.

Asked by reporters to comment on his trip to Nemura, Ishida, leader of Komeito [Clean Government Party], characterized the disputed islands as "former Japanese territories."

In a meeting with local officials, Ishida said at one point he saw from Cape Nossapu "the northern territories which have now become Russian territories." He later apologized for his slip of tongue, saying he has made "inappropriate expressions."

'No Word' From Moscow on Yeltsin's Visit

OW0410121893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1147 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 4 KYODO—Japan has received no word from Russia about the possible postponement of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's scheduled visit to Japan next week because of the violent clashes in Moscow, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said Monday [4 October]. Yeltsin's visit to Japan is scheduled for October 11 to 13 but appears problematic, as Russian Government troops on Monday attacked the parliament to root out conservative legislators and their supporters who had reportedly launched an attempt to oust Yeltsin from power.

Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito also told reporters there has been no indication so far from Russian authorities that Yeltsin, who has already twice canceled an official visit to Japan, will not be able to make the trip this time. He said it is too early to judge how the events in Moscow will affect Yeltsin's visit.

Japan will continue preparations on the assumption that Yeltsin will be coming as formally agreed, unless Moscow informs Tokyo of the trip's cancellation, Saito said. He also said it is unlikely that the events in Moscow will "directly influence" documents to be signed between Russia and Japan during Yeltsin's visit.

Foreign Ministry officials said a second group of a Russian advance team is to arrive in Japan this week to prepare for Yeltsin's visit and that they have not heard of any changes in the schedule.

The officials said that the lifting of a state of emergency that Yeltsin declared Sunday will make it easier for the president to leave the country. The state of emergency is due to expire next Sunday.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa told reporters he is worried about whether the violence between pro- and anti-Yeltsin forces in Moscow may affect the visit.

A senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the turmoil may have "an unfavorable effect" on the visit, noting Yeltsin has twice canceled trips to Tokyo, first in September last year and then in May.

At a session of the House of Representatives Budget Committee, Hosokawa pledged Japan's continued support for Yeltsin. He said he is worried about the unrest in Russia and earnestly hopes for an early return to law and order.

Takemura told the news conference that Japan is "deeply concerned about the situation in Russia," adding that Tokyo will keep monitoring the situation closely. The top government spokesman expressed hope that "the rebel forces" occupying the building of the Russian parliament will stop their activities as soon as possible to avoid further bloodshed.

Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata told the lower house session that Japan is seriously concerned about developments in Moscow and regrets the bloodshed. "Japan hopes for an early settlement," he said.

"President Yeltsin's reform efforts must not be blocked and Japan's support for his efforts will be unchanged," Hata said.

In a related development, the Foreign Ministry issued a warning to Japanese citizens not to visit Moscow following Yeltsin's declaration of a state of emergency.

First Yen Loan Offered to Kyrgyzstan

OW0110122693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1103 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. KYODO—Japan exchanged notes Friday [1 October] in Moscow on 6.5 billion yen loan to Kyrgyzstan, its first yen-based loan to a central Asian republic of the former Soviet Union, government officials said.

Japan promised the aid to Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev when he visited Tokyo in April. The Kyrgyz Government will use the loan to cover its fund shortages and pay its import bills for equipment needed for the nation's reconstruction, the officials said. The 30-year loan, with a 10-year grace period, carries an annual interest rate of 3.0 percent, they said.

Nuclear Accident Specialists To Visit Russia

OW0110093993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0832 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 1 KYODO—Japanese nuclear accident specialists will visit former Soviet republics starting October 10 to exchange information about their research into the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday [1 October]. An explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in April 1986 sent large amounts of radiation into the atmosphere, but the incident was initially covered up by the Soviet authorities.

The eight-member delegation, headed by Shunichi Yamashita of Nagasaki University's Atomic Disease Institute, will visit health ministries and research institutes in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine during an 11-day trip, the spokesman said at a news conference.

Japan and the Soviet Union agreed to cooperate in efforts to mitigate the effects of the Chernobyl disaster when foreign ministers signed a memorandum in April 1991.

"The memorandum continues to be operative between Japan and the other three countries," said the spokesman.

Hosokawa: Cabinet To Debate Antimissile System

OW0410074093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0710 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Monday [4 October] his cabinet will discuss whether to accept a U.S. proposal to jointly develop an antimissile defense system capable of shooting down North Korean ballistic missiles.

"I believe my cabinet should debate how to respond to the U.S. proposal to develop the theater missile defense system," Hosokawa told the House of Representatives Budget Committee. He was replying to a question from Ryutaro Hashimoto, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's Policy Affairs Research Council, who urged the government to accept the U.S. proposal.

The Theater Missile Defense (TMD) system would be an improved version of the U.S. Patriot missile used during the 1991 Persian Gulf war and would be capable of instantly detecting the launching of hostile missiles with a reconnaissance satellite radar and other electronic means.

North Korea has test-fired the Nodong-1 missile, which has an estimated range of 1,000 kilometers and reportedly can deliver both nuclear and biological warheads.

Hosokawa also told the session, "I am concerned about the suspected North Korean nuclear weapons program."

"Japan needs to consider how to respond to the program by holding close consultations with the United States," he said.

Sadao Yamahana, minister in charge of political reform, indicated opposition to the proposed joint development at the same parliamentary session, saying, "I believe Japan should take a cautious approach to the TMD."

Hashimoto said, "The government should work out countermeasures to counter a potential threat from the long-range North Korean missile."

On September 27, Japanese Defense Agency chief Keisuke Nakanishi told reporters that he and U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin had agreed in Washington to study the system within the framework of a meeting of working-level defense officials. Nakanishi also said the Hosokawa administration finds it difficult to reconcile internal differences in opinions on the TMD issue.

Nation's Total Plutonium Holdings Revealed

OW0110172693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1337 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 1 KYODO—Japan has currently 4,500 kilograms of plutonium stored domestically and overseas as of December 1992, the Science and Technology Agency said Friday [1 October]. It is the first time the agency has revealed the total, although it has previously divulged incomplete details about separate amounts of plutonium. The agency gave the figure in response to a written query from lower house Social Democratic Party member Tadatoshi Akiba.

The agency said plutonium extracted from spent nuclear fuel and purchased from overseas amounted to 8,230 kilogram. Deducting plutonium spent or processed as nuclear fuel, Japan has currently 4,500 kilograms, of which 1,600 kilograms was stored in Japan and 2,900 was stored overseas. The agency described the 1,600 kilograms stored in Japan as "not excessive" in view of the nation's policy of holding no more than is required for the nuclear power industry's immediate needs.

The agency figures were for late December, 1992 and the total included the 1,060 kilograms the transport ship Akatsuki Maru was bringing from France at the time. The agency said the 8,230-kilogram total included 4,820 kilograms of plutonium produced overseas as a result of reprocessing, 485 kilograms bought overseas, and 2,925 kilograms reprocessed in Japan. The 3,714 kilogram total in use at the time, included plutonium then being processed as fuel.

This total included 1,140 kilograms at the prototype fast breeder reactor "Monju" in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, 1,070 kilograms at the experimental fast reactor "Joyo" at Oarai in Ibaraki Prefecture, 980 kilograms at the advanced thermal reactor "Fugen" in Tsuruga, and 524 kilograms for research purposes.

The agency said the total reached by adding the amount in storage to the in-use figure did not match the total for the supply of plutonium because during storage, some plutonium changes to material which is not fissionable and because the figures had been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Malaysia's Mahathir Invites Hosokawa To Visit

OW0310151893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1500 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 3 KYODO—Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamad Mahathir on Sunday [3 October] invited Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to visit Malaysia at an opportune time and hoped for closer relations between the two countries, Japanese officials said. The two leaders met over a dinner at the Government Guesthouse after Mahathir arrived in Tokyo for a three-day unofficial visit. Mahathir is the first Asian leader to meet Hosokawa since Hosokawa assumed power on August 9 as head of the seven-party coalition government.

Hosokawa said he hopes to visit Malaysia at the earliest possible time since it is one of the countries in which he has the greatest interest, the officials said. They quoted Mahathir as saying ties with Japan are the key to his country's relations with other countries, expressing his gratitude for Japan's contribution to investment and modernization in the country.

He said he wants to send more students to Japan in view of his long-standing policy of learning from Japan, or the so-called "look East" policy. He also said he has a great interest in recovery of the sluggish Japanese economy because it would have a direct impact on Malaysia, the officials said.

Mahathir on Yen Appreciation

BK0410082793 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0457 GMT 4 Oct 93

[From A.S. Morita]

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 4 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed expressed concern over the appreciation of the yen when he met his Japanese counterpart Morihiro Hosokawa in Tokyo Saturday night. The Malaysian ambassador here, Mohamed Khatib Abdul Hamid, told BERNAMA the prime minister told Hosokawa that the recovery of the Japanese economy was of utmost importance to Malaysia.

Dr. Mahathir, who is here for a three-day unofficial visit after attending the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, spoke at a dinner at the Akasaka guest house. During the one and half-hour dinner meeting, Dr. Mahathir invited Hosokawa to visit Malaysia.

The two leaders, who recognised existing close relations between Malaysia and Japan, agreed to deepen mutual cultural and educational cooperation and also to strenghten cooperation involving the civil services of the two countries.

Hosokawa in return expressed his hope to visit Malaysia in the near future. He also explained to Dr. Mahathir that his government was in the midst of a structural reform which would not only be beneficial to the Japanese but also to other countries. Dr. Mahathir and his entourage were scheduled to leave for home Tuesday.

Lao Foreign Minister Arrives on Official Visit

OW0110110693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1030 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 1 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata on Friday [1 October] pledged Japan would continue assistance to Laos in support of its economic reforms and democratization, according to Foreign Ministry officials. Officials said Hata made the vow in a half-hour of talks with Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat. Somsavat arrived in Japan on

Thursday for a three-day stopover en route to New York to speak at the United Nations General Assembly.

Hata was quoted as saying Japan will contribute to the development of Laos, keeping in mind the "difficult times" the country has gone through in recent history.

Officials said Somsavat expressed his government's appreciation for Japan's official development assistance (ODA), which last year amounted to 2.9 billion yen in the form of grants.

Somsavat invited Hata to pay an official visit to Laos, though it is unlikely such a visit will take place in the near future as the Japanese foreign minister only recently returned from a visit to Southeast Asia.

Hata's Laotian counterpart was quoted as saying Laos will "back up Japan's role in the United Nations." The remark comes amid Japanese efforts to gain support from other U.N. members for its bid for a permanent seat on the Security Council.

KYODO Interviews Lao Foreign Minister 2 Oct

MIA Talks Set With U.S.

OW0210044693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0359 GMT 2 Oct 93

[By Tim Johnson]

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 2 KYODO—Laos and the United States will hold high-level talks Monday [4 October] in Honolulu to discuss the fate of Americans listed as missing-in-action (MIA) during the Vietnam war, Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat said Saturday.

"We are doing our best to find a resolution to this question," said Somsavat in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE at the end of a three-day unofficial visit here. Somsavat said he will meet with Adm. Charles Larson, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Forces, as well as members of the Hawaii-based Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (JTFFA).

The meeting, which will be the highest such bilateral contact to date, follows tripartite consultations in Honolulu last August among Laotian Vice Foreign Minister Soubanh Sritharat and U.S. and Vietnamese officials. Of the 2,248 unresolved cases of American MIAs in Indochina, there are some 514 cases related to Laos.

The Vietnam war spilled over into neighboring Laos and Cambodia before the communists defeated the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese Government in April 1975.

Somsavat said that while his government is rendering its full cooperation, "at the same time we also propose to the U.S. side to think about humanitarian assistance for our side."

Somsavat said that 20 years after the war's end, thousands of tons of unexploded ordinance remain in many parts of the country, left over from massive U.S. bombing of remote areas that had been used by Communist Vietnamese forces.

"People continue to get killed day by day from the unexploded bombs when they are out farming or digging," he said.

The foreign minister said relations between Laos and the U.S. have markedly improved in recent years. In late 1991, the U.S. responded to Laotian gestures on the issue of missing servicemen and suppression of drug trafficking by upgrading relations from charges d'affaires to the ambassadorial level.

Last August, U.S. MIA search teams lauded the "good cooperation" of Laos after they completed a monthlong investigation into 27 cases in a previously off-limits central area of the country bordering Vietnam. It was the 33rd such joint U.S.-Laotian field investigation. The first was conducted in 1985.

Some suspected human remains recovered during the joint excavations or handed in by Laotian officials are now being analyzed by the Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii to determine if they belong to any of the 514 MIAs.

Somsavat stressed that the searches are "not an easy task" considering the size of the areas involved and the fact that most U.S. planes were shot down in uninhabited areas.

Minister Asks for More Aid

OW0210081993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0736 GMT 2 Oct 93

[By Tim Johnson]

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 2 KYODO—Laos wants Japan to boost the level of its overall aid and resume extension of official loans, Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat said in Tokyo Saturday [2 October]. Somsavat made the remark in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE at the close of his three-day unofficial visit here.

"Apart from the grant aid given now by the Japanese Government, we would like also to ask for soft loans since we are in need of a good deal of funds for national development," he said.

Somsavat said Laos wants to use such concessionary loans for crucial economic infrastructure projects such as construction of highways and roads.

Japan has not provided official loans to Laos since fiscal 1976 mostly because the country's extremely limited ability to service debt. But Japan, which is Laos' largest aid benefactor, provided it some 2.9 billion yen in the form of grants in fiscal 1992, which ended March 31.

Somsavat noted that his government has yet to submit to Japan any formal requests for funding of particular projects.

While calling for increased development assistance, he said laos wants to attract Japanese investment in such areas as hydropower. The foreign minister also cited the forestry sector as offering opportunities for investors, but he said his government is taking care not to allow its lush forests to be decimated by excessive lumbering.

One of the poorest countries in the world, Laos' per capita income remains under 200 dollars annually. About half of its budget is financed by foreign aid and loans. But Japanese ambassador to Laos Masao Wada said Laos has made steady economic progress since it began pursuing market-oriented reforms.

Laos is reportedly working on a new investment law to streamline procedures, clarify regulations and encourage foreign investors to opt for long-term projects and inject more money into the country.

Under its program to move away from a centrally planned economy, the Laotian Government has allowed a number of inefficient government enterprises to be leased, sold or transformed into joint ventures with foreign or local partners.

Somsavat, questioned on the prospect of Laos' joining its more prosperous regional neighbors as a member in the association of southeast Asian nations (ASEAN), said such a move entails further economic development with the help of countries like Japan. Citing his country's current financial woes, he quipped that Laos cannot even fulfill a requirement that each member contribute a like amount of funds to maintain the ASEAN secretariat.

Laos now has observer status in ASEAN, which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Cambodia Offers Laos Sea Access

OW0210122793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1149 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 2 KYODO—Cambodia has offered its landlocked neighbor Laos an access route to the sea, Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat said Saturday. Somsavat said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE that the offer was made during last July's visit to Vientiane by leaders of Cambodia's then interim government.

"We expressed our sincere thanks for the goodwill of the Cambodian leaders, in which they would allow our country to transport goods through their territory," he said. He said the offer for access by river and road was made by Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, then co-premiers, who were making their first foreign trip after the May elections.

Somsavat said the prospective access route would be a welcome addition to the two routes already in place, one via Vietnam and the other via Thailand.

The Laotian minister, who was ending a three-day visit to Japan, also expressed conviction that the first bridge to span the main current of the Mekong River would be completed on schedule in April despite differences yet to be ironed out between Laos and Thailand. The two countries, who as recently as 1988 fought a brief border war, have taken divergent stands on where to draw the boundary line on the Australia-financed bridge, just south of Vientiane.

Laos has maintained the boundary should follow international practice with the line drawn down the center, while Thailand has countered that it should be drawn at the point above the deepest part of the river since that is the recognized boundary. Recent reports from Bangkok said an agreement was recently reached under which the bridge's dividing line would be drawn at midpoint, but that the two sides would not necessarily regard that as the official boundary. Somsavat insisted, though, the issue remains "under discussion" between working-level officials of the two countries.

Last SDF Peace Unit in Cambodia Disbanded

OW0310060893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0520 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Eniwa, Hokkaido, Oct. 3 KYODO—The last Japanese engineering battalion working with UN peacekeeping missions in Cambodia formally disbanded Sunday [3 October] in a military ceremony at the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) Eniwa base on the outskirts of Sapporo, Hokkaido. The 600-member unit, composed of the Sapporo-based northern army personnel, returned to Japan late last month, concluding their six-month duty in Cambodia.

The battalion, dispatched last March to replace another contingent of the GSDF middle army that served for six months in Japan's first ever overseas deployment of ground troops since the end of World War II, were engaged in noncombatant tasks such as reconstructing and repairing a national highway and bridges in southern Cambodia.

Keisuke Nakanishi, state minister and defense agency chief, joined about 1,000 people who attended the battalion's colors returning ceremony, which marked its formal dissolution.

Following a report by the battalion head, Lt. Col. Yoshio Ishioroshi, Defense Agency Director General Nakanishi presented a citation by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to the unit.

"The United Nations and many countries of the world highly appreciate your activities in Cambodia," Nakanishi said in the ceremony. "It has a great historical significance as Japan's personnel contribution to the world community."

To help the country get back on its feet, the battalion left about 10 million dollars worth of equipment and supplies at its Takeo base, about 75 kilometers south of Phnom Penh. Japan sent about 1,300 peacekeepers to Cambodia, including military observers and civilian police, as well as 1,200 engineering troops, after it enacted the UN Peacekeeping Cooperation Law in June last year.

$25,000 in Earthquake Relief Given to India

OW0110094093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0751 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 1 KYODO—Japan will send 25,000 dollars in disaster relief to the Indian Government after Thursday's deadly earthquake in Maharashtra State, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said Friday [1 October].

"We are also sounding out the possibility of offering further financial and personnel assistance with the Indian Government," he said. However, he said the Indian Government does not appear keen to seek aid from other countries.

The earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale struck about 400 kilometers southeast of Bombay. Death toll figures vary but as many as 20,000 are feared dead.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Japanese Government is also prepared to send the Japan disaster relief team, which it dispatched last year for earthquake disaster relief in Nicaragua, Egypt and Indonesia.

Marubeni Launches Two Spinning Ventures in PRC

OW3009133393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0951 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Osaka, Sept. 30 KYODO—Major Japanese trading firm Marubeni Corp. said Thursday [30 September] it has launched two spinning joint ventures in China. The company said Shanghai Xinhong Textile Co., capitalized at 5 million dollars, will start operating in January 1995, supplying knitting yarn mainly to Japanese textile makers operating in China. The company said Jiangyin Taiyo Worsted Spinning Mills Ltd., established in Jingyin, Jiangsu Province, at a capital of 8.4 million dollars, will start operating in August 1994. Taiyo Boseki Co., a Japanese spinner based in Gifu Prefecture, which owns a 55 percent stake in the venture, said it will transfer 50 percent of its production facilities to the joint firm.

Further on Prospect of Emergency Rice Import

Hosokawa Vows Self-Sufficiency

OW0310043493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0417 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Fukushima, Oct. 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa vowed Sunday [3 October] to "maintain the existing policy of rice production self-sufficiency" in coming years, despite a decision to implement an emergency import for 1993. Visiting farming regions hit by the extraordinarily cool summer in Kawamata and Matsukawa in Fukushima Prefecture, northeast Japan, the premier told an accompanying group of reporters, "the government will not drop the existing policy of rice production self-sufficiency."

He denied the possibility that the cabinet decision to import 200,000 tons of rice to make up a shortfall in this year's crop will lead Japan to scrap its longtime ban on rice imports in coming years. He made the remarks in response to reporters' questions after conducting an on-the-spot inspection of rice paddy fields hit by this summer's low temperature.

Slipping on a pair of rubber boots, Hosokawa, wearing a blue suit, walked onto ridges between rice fields and picked up a green rice plant which has failed to ripen because of the cool summer. Defending the government's decision to conduct the emergency import, he said, "I deepened my awareness of the seriousness of the poorest rice harvest in the postwar period."

Farm Ministry 'Considering' Access

OW0210094893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0929 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 2 KYODO—The Farm Ministry is considering accepting a minimum access proposal for opening Japan's rice market, government sources said Saturday. The sources said the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is expected to make a decision on the issue toward the end of this year.

Up to the present, Japan has refused to accept a proposal by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), calling for high tariffs to replace the existing total ban on rice imports. But ministry officials now consider that it is unavoidable for Japan to accept a minimum access plan under which the country imports a certain ratio of its annual rice consumption, the sources said. Under the GATT plan, Japan will be required to import about 300,000 tons or 3.0 percent of its domestic rice consumption in the initial year at low or no tariffs, with the volume raised to 500,000 tons or 5.0 percent six years thereafter.

The coalition government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is expected to make a decision on the issue before a summit of the countries belonging to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Seattle in November and the December 15 deadline for the Uruguay Round of world trade talks, the sources said.

The government announced Thursday plans to import rice to cope with the worst harvest in the postwar period, with an initial instalment of 200,000 tons by the year-end. Rice growers in the United States are demanding Japan abolish its control on rice imports. But the government stressed that the emergency imports would not lead to a liberalization of the country's rice market.

Imports From Thailand, PRC, U.S.

OW0410095993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0926 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 4 KYODO—Japan will import 193,000 tons of rice for processed food this year as an emergency measure to deal with an expected poor rice harvest, the Food Agency said Monday [4 October]. The imports will consist of 160,000 tons of nonglutinous rice and 33,000 tons of glutinous rice, agency officials said.

Under present plans, the government is expected to import 103,000 tons of rice, including glutinous rice, from Thailand in November, and 90,000 tons of nonglutinous rice from Thailand, China and the United States. So far Japan has effectively banned all rice imports, to maintain self-sufficiency in the staple food. The glutinous rice will be used to make rice cakes, which are traditionally eaten during the new years holiday season, the officials said.

There is widespread speculation that Japan will import a total 450,000 tons of rice—400,000 tons of nonglutinous rice and 50,000 tons of glutinous rice—in the January-March quarter. Rice imports by next March 31 are expected to total 643,000 tons.

Japan will have to eventually import at least 1.1 million tons of rice—400,000 tons for processing and 700,000 tons for sale as staple food, with the 1993 crop of rice likely to be even poorer than currently estimated, agricultural sources have said.

The last harvest index for the 1993 crop of rice as of September 15 was an "extremely poor" 80, against the base figure of 100.

The food agency intends to set the sale prices of imported rice for processing and staple food at the same level as those for Japanese-produced rice, the officials said. Japanese rice prices are five to seven times higher than world market prices. If the prices for imported rice were set much lower than those for Japanese rice, there would be a "serious confusion," the officials said. Some food processers have reportedly said that imported rice is of poorer quality than Japanese rice and should be sold at lower prices.

Price Hike Fixed at 7 Percent

OW0210044793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0317 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 2 KYODO—A rice industry organization has decided to fix wholesale prices for this year's harvest from November, with no regular tenders for the time being, industry sources said Saturday. The price will be fixed at 7 percent higher than the weighted average of successful tender prices in the past three years, the sources said. Following the decision, the food agency will strengthen control on the rice market to keep prices from rising wildly, the sources said.

The decision was made in the wake of what is called the poorest postwar rice harvest, a result of a series of typhoons and an unusually cool and wet summer. The decision will be formalized next Thursday [7 October] at committees of the price-setting organization for rice producers, the sources said. The organization holds biddings for what is called jishu-ryutsu-mai, rice distributed by producers or wholesalers with government approval.

Of the estimated 10 million tons of rice consumed in Japan each year, 7 million tons is distributed through government-approved channels—jishu-ryutsu-mai rice accounts for 85 percent of that total, while seifu-mai, rice purchased by the government and sold on the market, accounts for 15 percent. The remaining 3 million tons is consumed by growers or distributed through markets outside government channels. Under the food control law, the government controls production and distribution of food and free commercial trade in rice is banned.

According to the sources, in the first tender for this year's rice held earlier in Tokyo and Osaka, prices of all brands of rice shot up to the trade-ceiling of 5 percent from the standard price. The sources said it was obvious that in the next tender the prices would rise to the ceiling of 7 percent allowed in the second tender and after. The organization, therefore, decided to fix the price at that level on all brands of rice to be traded on the market without tender.

The government will exert administrative power to make the fixed price the benchmark for transactions among rice distributors, and will clamp down on any spillover to the black market, the sources said.

SDP Head Opposes Liberalization

OW0210051193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0451 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 2 KYODO—Social Democratic Party [SDP] Chairman Tomiichi Murayama urged the government Saturday [2 October] to declare that Japan's emergency imports of rice will never lead to liberalization of the country's rice market. The leader of the largest party within the seven-party ruling coalition made the comment at a news conference in Beppu, Oita Prefecture, a hot spa resort.

Meanwhile, opposition leader Yohei Kono offered support for the government's rice import proposal, saying the government should import the necessary minimum in the case of a shortage. Kono, president of the Liberal Democratic Party, told a news conference in Kanazawa Prefecture, however, that imports must be limited to extreme conditions such as that faced this year.

The coalition government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa announced Thursday Japan will import 200,000 tons of rice by the end of the year for processed foods.

The decision is regarded as an initial measure to fill an estimated one million ton shortage in the nation's rice supply over the coming year. An expected poor harvest is blamed on a series of typhoons and an unusually cool and wet summer.

This year's rice harvest index fell to 80 in mid-September against a base figure of 100, the worst in the postwar period, according to the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry.

Murayama told the news conference that rice growers are concerned that the emergency import may pave the way for the opening up of Japan's rice market.

The SDP leader urged the government to abide by an agreement among the ruling coalition parties to oppose a proposal by the former head of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Arthur Dunkel, to convert all nontariff trade barriers, including Japan's rice import ban, into tariffs.

Kono, renewing the LDP's opposition to the opening up of the Japanese rice market, pointed to the need to help domestic rice growers who were hard hit by the poor harvest.

Damage to Harvest Estimated

OW0210081793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0748 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 2 KYODO—Damage caused by bad weather to the 1993 rice harvest is estimated at 663.3 billion yen, a nationwide survey by KYODO NEWS SERVICE showed Saturday [2 October]. KYODO's survey was based on damage estimated by prefectural governments and agricultural cooperatives across the country.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said Thursday the nation's rice harvest this year would hit a postwar record low, with the index at 80 against 100. The poor harvest is expected to deal a heavy blow not only to rice growers but regional economies as well.

According to the KYODO survey, damage was particularly severe in Hokkaido and other prefectures in northeastern Japan, known as Japan's major granaries. The survey showed that damage in the region was estimated at 444.6 billion yen, accounting for about 70 percent of the nationwide total. Damage in Hokkaido alone was estimated at 115.6 billion yen, while that in Fukushima, Tochigi and Niigata prefectures stood at 57.7 billion yen, 39.4 billion yen and 27.5 billion yen, respectively.

Damage was also reported from typhoon-hit southern Japan, particularly in Kagoshima Prefecture with 8.2 billion yen worth of damage, Fukuoka prefecture 7.2 billion yen and Miyazaki Prefecture 6.2 billion yen.

Minister Reports to Committee on Tax Reform

OW0410053493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0445 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 4 KYODO—Japan's plans for tax reform and deregulation are not an "international pledge," Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii told the House of Representatives budget committee on Monday. Replying to a question about why Japan took up the issue at last month's meeting in Washington of finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations, Fujii said the government was simply explaining its plans. He also said the government plans to change inheritance tax, particularly where it involves real estate, to allow people to pay in kind. There has been an increase in cases of people who have inherited real estate facing problems in meeting tax demands.

The tax is based on the value of real estate at the time of inheritance, but amid the economic slump the market value of real estate has fallen sharply, making it difficult for many people to sell it and obtain the money to pay the tax, he said.

Foreign Firms Delisting From Stock Exchange

OW0210004393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0024 GMT 2 Oct 93

[By Hisa Miyatake]

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 2 KYODO— More foreign firms are delisting from the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) with the shrinking market becoming unattractive for raising funds amid the advance in the yen's value. According to the TSE, six companies have delisted from the foreign section of the TSE up to September and four other companies have already applied for delisting.

Warner-Lambert Co., a U.S. pharmaceutical house, Bellsouth Corp. of the U.S., and Dixons Group PLC of Britain, have filed applications for delisting on October 30, while Gentra Inc. of Canada has applied for delisting on November 30. As a result, there will be a total of 110 firms on the foreign section as of the end of 1993, down from a peak of 127 in 1991.

"Many foreign companies have come to believe there is little merit in listing in Japan as the number of shareholders has been decreasing in the shrinking market," said Tetsuo Sejima of the Foreign Stock Trading Department at Daiwa Securities Co.

The TSE said average daily transaction value in the market for foreign companies shrank to 408 million yen in 1993, only 3 percent of its peak of 12,661 million yen marked in 1987. By the time of the Persian Gulf war in early 1991, there was a boom among Japanese to invest in foreign companies and real estate as well as financial products such as U.S. treasuries.

Sejima said that since then, however, investment by "Japan money" began sharply shrinking due to the collapse of the "bubble economy" and the yen's surge.

A law firm for Bellsouth said, "the numbers of traded shares and shareholders are sharply decreasing. There has been little interest in the shares of the company at retail and industrial levels."

Putting aside such a financial supply-demand balance, there is a special problem for non-Japanese firms to keep on listing. According to an official of General Motors Corp. [GM] which delisted in September, 1992, the cost of stock listing in Tokyo is about 10 times as high as major overseas exchanges.

"It cost us 20 million yen of annual expenses for business disclosures in the Japanese language under requirements stipulated in the Securities Law," the GM official said.

Nagami Kishi, secretary general of Foreign Affiliated Companies Management Association, said, "I think more foreign firms in Japan will delist from the TSE. They have come to believe that the Tokyo market is not so attractive as they had thought."

Many companies flocked to Japan after the signing of 1985 Plaza Accord, an agreement by major industrialized nations to drive down the value of the dollar against the yen.

"Such companies had believed Tokyo's financial market matched New York or London at that time. But they finally found the reality turned out to be different," Kishi said. "The cost of continuing listing is higher than the return. It's quite natural for them to leave the TSE," he said.

Analysts say the withdrawal from Tokyo is also part of streamlining and restructuring programs adopted by the foreign firms' head offices. A market analyst said, "There is no Asian firm in the TSE listing. A key factor for stimulating the foreign section may be the listing of Asian firms which are enjoying sharp business performance growth."

"But the TSE is responsible for making the foreign section unpopular. If the market is attractive, an investor, wherever he lives in the world, would invest in the market," he said.

Construction Firm Vice President Arrested

OW0410083193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0706 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 4 KYODO—Prosecutors Monday [4 October] arrested a vice president of Taisei Corp., one of Japan's largest construction companies, in connection with the bribery case involving former Miyagi Gov. Shuntaro Honma. The Tokyo Public Prosecutors Office said Takashi Hashimoto, 57, is suspected of conspiring with two Taisei officials who had been arrested earlier for allegedly giving 20 million yen in bribes to Honma in January.

Honma, 53, then Miyagi governor, and two Taisei officials, Koji Amada, 53, manager at the firm's Tohoku branch, and Takaaki Wada, 57, former Tohoku branch manager, were apprehended September 27. Honma resigned as governor after being arrested. The Taisei officials allegedly gave the bribes to Honma as a reward for his intervention in the process of selecting contractors qualified to bid for a prefecture-run hospital.

Local Entities Urged To Test Open Bid System

OW0110065293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0559 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 1 KYODO—The Home Affairs Ministry on Friday [1 October] urged the country's 47 prefectural governments and 12 major cities to conduct an early test of a competitive bidding system for public works projects with certain restrictions applied, ministry officials said. The request was made following the arrest Monday of Miyagi Gov. Shuntaro Honma on suspicion of taking a 20 million yen bribe from major contractor Taisei Corp.

Honma became the fourth local government chief to be arrested since late June in a series of money scandals centered around Japan's major builders, which allegedly used illegal funds to attain orders on public works projects. The system of restricted bidding on public works projects has come under fire as a hotbed for graft between contractors and politicians.

The ministry asked local governments to try out a system of open bidding on large-scale public works projects, which require high- level technological engineering, with certain restrictions, the officials said. The ministry asked the local governments to then report on the projects and the number of tender bidders, they said.

Conditions for participating in the competitive bidding system include a stipulation that builders meet "technical capabilities" requirements, the officials said.

On July 31, the ministry asked the local governments to consider introducing such a system. Breaking the decades-old practice of a stringently limited bidding system, the Construction Ministry has decided to experiment with the open bidding procedure in 13 public works projects, each worth over 1 billion yen, during fiscal 1993.

North Korea

Japan's Remarks on Nuclear Issue Denounced

SK0210135593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1215 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Today, the DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman answered questions raised by a Korean Central News Agency [KCNA] reporter in connection with the Japanese authorities' misbehavior of picking a quarrel with us over the nuclear issue in recent days:

According to reports, Japanese Foreign Minister Hata talked about our nuclear issue, which is fictitious, in his recent talks with the South Korean foreign minister. Japanese Prime Minister Hosokawa talked wildly, saying that he was concerned about our nuclear weapons development, in his speech at the UN general meeting and in a joint news conference followed by the Japan-U.S. summit held recently.

In particular, when speaking at the International Atomic Energy Agency's general meeting held in Vienna, a Japanese delegate strongly urged us to rejoin the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and completely implement the safeguards accord, using even a term of the North Korean nuclear weapons plan issue.

The Japanese authorities are making very provocative [tobaljok] remarks, mentioning the Republic's nuclear weapons development, nuclear weapons plan, and the like. This plainly shows that the new Japanese Government continues to pursue its anachronistic hostile policy toward us, just like Japan's former Liberal Democratic Party.

When considering these challenging [tojonjok] remarks made by the Japanese authorities in relation to the Japanese Government's attitude toward DPRK-Japan talks in the past, we clearly see that Japan does not want to establish friendly relations with the DPRK and has not abandoned the wicked intent to realize its old militarist delusion in collusion with the enemy that tries to isolate and stifle [apsal] us in any way.

The Japanese authorities are bent on provoking us with the fictitious nuclear issue in order to avoid the world attention to Japan's attempt to develop nuclear weapons by stockpiling a large amount of plutonium and to ultimately realize its nuclear armament and become a military power.

If Japan goes on the road of nuclear armament and tries to become a military power, using our nuclear and missile issues as pretexts while continuously sticking to the anti-Republic maneuver, the DPRK people and peace-loving people in Asia and in the world will never allow this.

The Japanese authorities should be clearly aware of the fact that our people will never forget their 40-year-long deep grudge, bloody history stained by the Japanese imperialists, and they should act discreetly.

TMD Plan Criticized

SK0310084693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0824 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 3 (KCNA)—The director general of the Defence Agency of Japan went to the United States some time ago and had a confab to deploy theatre missiles in Japan under the pretext of coping with the "missile threat" of the DPRK.

NODONG SINMUN today says that the Japan's anti-DPRK campaign is a trick to foster a fear-ridden atmosphere favorable in reinforcing offensive Armed Forces and stepping up its military power by greatly increasing military expenditures.

The news analyst goes on:

Japan is getting overheated in the anti-DPRK propaganda, putting a preposterous label of "threat" on the DPRK exposed to a grave nuclear threat from the ground, sea and air. This pursues a sinister purpose of reminding us of a thief crying stop thief.

After the Cold War came to an end, Japan is trying to establish a new dominationist order in which it will act the master in Asia.

To this end, Japan is continuing to increase military expenditures to hasten unlimited arms buildup and putting spurs to modernization of military equipment with the increase of long-distance offensive and long-term fighting capabilities as the main. A proof of this is that the defence agency of Japan is extensively introducing interceptor fighter-planes, air refuelling tankers and all sorts of missiles. It plans even to introduce an aircraft carrier next year.

These moves show that Japan intends to gradually expand military operational zone on a global scale by winning the control of the sea and air in the Asia-Pacific area.

Japan's plan to establish a "theatre missile defence [TMD] system" is to become a military power to impose its will on others by force of arms by expanding missile offensive capability in an all-round way under the name of "defence".

Japan is going to take the lead in the reckless moves of the enemy to threaten and stifle the DPRK.

This tells that Japan may commit a missile preemptive attack on the DPRK under the cloak of removing "missile threat".

The reckless act of Japan to repeat the history of aggression should be held in check.

Said Pursuing 'Hostile' Policy

SK0410045693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 4 Oct 93

["They Must Not Act Rashly"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 4 (KCNA)—Japanese Prime Minister Hosokawa in his speech at the U.N. General Assembly cried that it was necessary to take measures to "dispel international concern over the nuclear arms development of the DPRK." Japanese Foreign Minister Hata and others are also uttering provocative words getting on the nerve of the DPRK.

We cannot but take a serious view of this, states a NODONG SINMUN analyst today.

He says:

The acts of the Japanese authorities clearly show that the new government of Japan like the liberal-democratic government is pursuing a hostile policy toward the DPRK.

Nuclear threat is what we should accuse Japan of. It is well known a fact that Japan has long since pursued nuclear armament.

That is why the Asian peoples are denouncing Japan's nuclear armament scheme and watching its every movement.

By raising a hue and cry over the fictitious "nuclear problem" of the DPRK in the international arena, they seek to divert elsewhere the world's criticism of Japan and invent a pretext for accelerating their nuclear armament and military power buildup.

What is noteworthy is that the Japanese authorities are conspiring with the South Korean rulers in the anti-DPRK campaign. The South Korean rulers are reading the face of the Japanese authorities and currying favour with them and are slandering the DPRK in collusion with them. This is a pro-Japanese flunkeyist treachery impairing the dignity of the nation.

We will never tolerate the anti-DPRK campaign of the Japanese and South Korean authorities.

If the Japanese authorities continue to hasten their nuclear armament, taking issue with the DPRK, they will get no good result.

KCNA Reports 30 Sep U.S. Air Exercise

SK0310084493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0805 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 3 (KCNA)—Flying groups of the U.S. Marine Corps on September 30 had a drill of air deployment in South Korea against the northern half of Korea, according to military sources.

Participated in the provocative war game staged under the support of air tankers were several formations of AV-8 VTOL assault planes and FA-18 pursuit-assault planes.

It was the war gamble intended to testify the deployment ability of flying groups of the U.S. Marine Corps in the U.S. Air Force base in South Korea.

This is part of the premeditated provocative maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists to further aggravate the tension of the Korean peninsula.

'Air Espionage' Allegedly Conducted

SK0110062893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 1 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists intensively committed air espionage on the northern half of Korea in September with the mobilization of strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes of different types such as U-2, RC-135, E-3, RV-1, RC-12 and EH-60, according to military sources.

On Sept. 7, 8 and 16, an overseas-based E-3 early warning plane flying above Tokjok Islet, Chunchon and Yangyang, South Korea, committed an espionage on targets in the depths of the northern half of Korea, while commanding flying groups in an air war drill. On the 16th and 24th, a Japan-based RC-135 was brought to the sky of South Korea to commit a photographing and electronic reconnaissance on strategic targets in the North.

On the 28th and 29th, a U-2 committed espionage on strategic targets of the North, making a high-altitude flight above the Military Demarcation Line [MDL]. And on the 17th and 26th, two high-altitude strategic reconnaissance planes of this type took off at the same time and repeatedly made shuttle flights along Tokjok Islet, Hwachon and the coastal waters off Kojin for a photographing and electronic reconnaissance on the northern half of Korea.

The espionages by the U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane in September totaled more than 30 cases.

On Sept. 27, they let eight RV-1 and RC-12 Army tactical reconnaissance planes make repeated flights along Tokjok Islet, Pochon and Sokcho all day long for the purpose of espionage on the inland areas of the northern half of Korea. On the 29th and 24th, RF-4C airforce reconnaissance planes flew above the MDL area for espionage on the North side's areas as a whole.

EH-60 electronic warfare helicopters made flights in the sky above the area adjacent to the MDL in the western sector of the front on some ten occasions in September for electronic jamming and espionage on coastal and frontline areas at the same time.

The U.S. imperialists committed aerial espionages on the northern half of Korea on 150 odd occasions in September through various types of reconnaissance planes including high-altitude strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes and electronic warfare helicopters.

North Urges South Koreans To Attend Meeting

SK0210025993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0200 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] On 2 October, DPRK Administration Council Premier Kang Song-san sent a telephone message to South Korean Prime Minister Hwang In-song requesting the South to come to the working delegates' contact and give a clear reply to the principled matters raised by our side in connection with the exchange of special envoys.

The telephone message reads: As you know, four months have passed since our side proposed the exchange of North's and South's highest leaders' special envoys. Since then, the two sides, through discussions, have come to share the view that the exchange of the highest leaders' special envoys is presently the most reasonable way to solve pending issues between the North and the South, including the denuclearization issue. This can be regarded as progress in the solution of the problem.

Nevertheless, the exchange of special envoys, which has been put on the order of the day, has not been realized, because your side has been delaying the reply to our just demand that your side stop the nuclear war exercise against us and not pursue the so-called international mutual assistance system in connection with the nuclear issue.

On many occasions we requested your side to express a clear stance regarding this matter. This stems from the desire to successfully realize the exchange of envoys amid a good atmosphere [choun punwigi].

From the sincere position to realize the exchange of envoys as soon as possible, we hope that your side will come forth to the working-level delegates contact to give a clear answer to the principle issues that our side put forth. We notify your side that we will send three working-level delegates as scheduled to Panmunjom, our side of Tongilgak, on Tuesday 5 October at 1000 [0100 GMT].

Our side will send Pak Yong-su, vice director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF]; Choe Song-chol and Choe Song-ik, section chiefs of the CPRF Secretariat; and four suite members to the working-level delegates contact.

We hope that your side will give an affirmative response.

KCNA on Message to South

SK0210050393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 2 (KCNA)—Kang Song-san, premier of the DPRK Administration Council, today sent a telephone message to his South Korean counterpart, Hwang In-song, urging the South side to come out to a working-level contact and give an unequivocal answer to the principled questions raised by the North side for an exchange of special envoys.

"Four months have passed since our side proposed an exchange of special envoys of the top-level authorities between the North and the South," the message says. "But it has not yet been realized because the South side has postponed sending an answer to our side's just demand that it discontinue nuclear war exercises against us, the dialogue partner, and refrain from seeking an 'international mutual assistance system' over the nuclear problem."

"Out of a sincere stand to realize an exchange of special envoys at an early date, and in the hope that the South side will come out to a working-level contact and give a clear answer to the principled questions raised by our side, we will send three working delegates as scheduled to the Tongil House in October 5 (Tuesday)."

According to the message, Pak Yong-su, deputy director of the secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF), Choe Song-chol and Choe Song-ik, department chiefs of the CPRF Secretariat, and four suite members will go to attend the working-level contact from the North side.

ROK Statement on Biochemical Arms 'Fabrication'

SK0310032393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Statement issued by the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland in Pyongyang on 2 October—read by announcer]

[Text] South Korea is now kicking off an anti-Republic strategic commotion by fabricating and distributing false materials saying that we are developing biochemical weapons.

According to a report, the South Korean rulers are sticking to a mean and strategic plot of fabricating and distributing false materials saying that we possess approximately 1,000 tonnes of poisonous gases, including blister and nerve gas [suposongkwa singyongsong kasu] and that we have already even tested a living body in developing bacteriological weapons.

The currently fabricated materials by the South Korean authorities regarding the North's development of biochemical weapons is also a preposterous plot of fabricating a nonexistent fact.

The CPRF [Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland] Secretariat brands the mean and strategic commotion by the South Korean authorities—who fabricated and distributed information about our nonexistent biochemical weapons development—as an unforgivable anti-national act of aggravating distrust and confrontation within our nation and of distorting the public opinion at home and abroad and, thus, strongly denounces it.

We have declared on many occasions that we neither have biochemical weapons—as we announced earlier that we have no nuclear weapons—nor do we need to produce them. Falsity and fabrication are bad habits the South Korean rulers are always having.

The South Korean rulers are currently kicking off a commotion by fabricating false materials of the so-called biochemical weapons development. This is a planned and strategic plot to slander us with because their nuclear commotion is useless. This is also a foolish plot to further aggravate North-South relations and, availing themselves of this opportunity, to find an excuse for their development of biochemical weapons along with nuclear weapons.

They themselves reveal in such an anti-Republic strategic commotion that they have neither a desire for the North-South dialogue nor aspiration for the improvement in the North-South relations but instead only make the insidious attempt to harm the fellow countrymen.

If the South Korean rulers want to obtain their so-called insidious goal by conducting such a cunning plot against us, they are miserly doomed to the ruin just like the destiny of the previous dictators who had adopted an anti-Republic plot as their work.

The South Korean authorities must immediately stop conducting a mean and strategic plot against us. If they continue to stick to the insidious anti-Republic strategic plot and to embark on the road of aggravating North-South relations despite our warnings, they will be totally held responsible for all consequences arising therefrom.

[Dated] 2 October 1993, Pyongyang.

North Denies BW Program

SK0410024893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2212 GMT 3 Oct 93

['Press statement' by Kim Kwang-chin, North side's chairman of the North-South Joint Military Committee, issued in Pyongyang on 3 October—read by announcer]

[Text] The South Korean ruling bunch is currently kicking off insidious anticommunist smear and slanderous propaganda maneuvers against us over the development of so-called biochemical weapons [BW]. This has evoked great indignation of the nation.

At a time when the exchange of special envoys is the order of the day to discuss various problems raised in North-South relations, including the issue of denuclearization of the nation; and when our side put forward a peace-loving demand for suspending nuclear war exercises by the South side, and for not pursuing an international cooperative system for the successful exchange of special envoys; the South Korean authorities put forward the nonexistent development of biochemical weapons, thus slandering and defaming our Republic, the dialogue partner. This is another grave challenge to peace and reunification of the nation.

I sternly denounce the South Korean ruling bunch's smear campaigns on so-called development of biochemical weapons, on a possibility of the use of biochemical weapons, and so forth. I brand them as part of the extremely dangerous anticommunist confrontation policy.

Such preposterous smear propaganda commotions by the South Korean ruling bunch reflect the status of its political confusion and frenzy of those who are engrossed with serious anxiety caused by such political confusion.

As is known to all, reform carried out in South Korea without direction has already been set adrift and expectations for the civilian government were also demolished. Thus, indignation of the masses is erupting everywhere.

While the South Korean ruling bunch visited Japan and brought the issue of our nonexistent nuclear weapons and went around here and there with this issue, a joint statement was adopted by the DPRK and the United States in which our Republic and the United States pledged that the two sides will not use armed force, including nuclear weapons, nor will they threaten the other side; will respect each other's sovereignty; will not interfere in each other's domestic affairs; and will support the peaceful reunification of Korea. As the result of this, the South Korean ruling bunch has been reduced to the form of a dog, just as a proverb says, the dog that chased a hen is only looking at the roof in frustration as the hen ran away.

Today the South Korean authorities cannot repeat an outdated melody called suspicion of nuclear development any longer, nor do they have courage to take the nuclear issue outside. Therefore, the South Korean ruling bunch spoke gibberish that the North deployed 65 percent of its military power in advanced areas of the frontline, the Korean peninsula has been reduced to an arsenal attracting the keenest attention of the world, and so forth. In addition, the South Korean ruling bunch committed a grave military provocation by infiltrating a spy boat deep into our territorial waters in the West Sea. Furthermore, like a thief calling stop thief, the South Korean ruling bunch caused chaos in its own side. All this, however, failed to convince anyone.

Therefore, what the South Korean ruling bunch has worked out through shocking smear campaigns is none other than the development of biochemical weapons.

However, the South Korean ruling bunch made an erroneous judgment. Being the direct victim of chemical and germ weapons, we opposed the development, production, and stockpiling of these weapons and strongly demanded their destruction.

Who on earth ran amok frantically to inflict calamities of germ weapons and chemical weapons on the same people, along with nuclear disaster, whenever they staged such nuclear war exercises as the Team Spirit joint military exercise? No one would believe the remarks of the South Korean ruling bunch, even if they loudly talk about the North's capability of carrying out biochemical warfare, and so forth.

Smear campaigns will be revealed and falsehoods will be exposed. The South Korean ruling bunch should immediately stop antipeace, antidialogue, and antinational smear maneuvers to threaten peace by deceiving and ridiculing public opinion of the world, to destroy the atmosphere of dialogue, and to instigate North-South confrontation.

The South Korean ruling bunch should correctly realize that its reckless anticommunist smear propaganda maneuvers will only arouse indignation of soldiers of our People's Army and of all Korean people, will further aggravate North-South relations, and will heighten tension of the nation. It should act with discretion.

KCNA Carries Denial

SK0410044993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 4 Oct 93

["South Korean Authorities Urged To Stop Smear Campaign"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 4 (KCNA)—Kim Kwang-chin, North side's chairman of the North-South joint military committee, in a statement Sunday said it was another grave challenge to the cause of peace and reunification of the country for the South Korean authorities to slander our Republic, the dialogue partner, by raising outcries over the North's fictitious "development of biochemical weapons".

Noting that this nonsensical false propaganda of the South Korean ruling quarters reflects their political confusion and it is a fit of those who are seized with uneasiness, he went on:

"We, a direct victim of biological and chemical weapons, have opposed the development, production and storage of biochemical weapons and strongly called for their destruction.

"The South Korean ruling quarters must immediately stop their anti-peace, anti-dialogue, anti-national intrigues intended to deceive and mock world opinion, threaten peace, wreck the atmosphere of dialogue and incite North-South confrontation.

"They must act with discretion, clearly seeing that their reckless anti-communist false propaganda will only result in arousing the resentment of our People's Army soldiers and the entire Korean people, worsening the North-South relations and further increasing the tensions of the country."

South Accused of Blocking DPRK-U.S. Talks

SK0210060593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 2 (KCNA)—A military boss of South Korea, when he met with the director general of the Japanese "Defence Agency" a few days ago, prattled that if the improvement of the DPRK-USA relations precedes the improvement of the North-South relations, "it would pose a threat to peace and security in Northeast Asia." Earlier, the present South Korean ruler, when he met with a high-ranking official of the United States, said that the "solution of the nuclear problem" is prerequisite for security on the Korean peninsula and the United States should "closely cooperate with Seoul to solve the nuclear problem" of the North.

Branding this as an imprudent act of those who do not know where to sit and stand, MINJU CHOSON today in a signed commentary says:

Properly speaking, the South Korean authorities have neither face nor qualification to meddle in the DPRK-USA talks.

It is ridiculous and impertinent for the South Korean authorities, the puppets who have no qualification and power, to say this or that toward the talks between the DPRK and the United States, sovereign states.

They are raising the improvement of the North-South relations as a precondition for improving the DPRK-USA relations, while refusing to hold dialogue with the North and improve North-South relations. This fully reveals that they, in fact, want neither the progress of the DPRK-USA talks nor the settlement of the nuclear problem through talks.

Judging from such a fuss made by the South Korean rulers over the fictitious "nuclear problem" of the North, it seems that they fear that "nuclear umbrella" may be removed from South Korea with the progress of the DPRK-USA talks.

Envoy to Zimbabwe Criticizes South

SK0310141893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] DPRK ambassador to Zimbabwe held a news conference on 16 September denouncing the South Korean authorities for their wrong position and attitude on the DPRK-U.S. talks. Present at the news conference were the reporters from Zimbabwean newspapers.

At the news conference, the ambassador specifically referred to the particulars and success of the DPRK-U.S. talks and noted that the world's peace-loving people welcome the success of the DPRK-U.S. talks.

He said that it is only the South Korean authorities that are displeased with the success of the DPRK-U.S. talks. He then noted that the South Korean authorities, which have no rights whatsoever, are presumptuously grumbling over the DPRK nuclear issue, babbling about sanctions. He warned that the South Korean authorities should know what their master's intent is and how the world is moving before they bustle around.

He stressed that the South Korean authorities should join the road for the country's independent and peaceful reunification according to the 10-point program for the great unity of the whole nation for national reunification put forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The ambassador then answered the reporters' questions.

Commentary Denounces Kim Yong-sam's Speech

SK0210141593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "Malicious and Slanderous Remarks"]

[Text] According to a report, the South Korean ruler, Kim Yong-sam, made a so-called congratulatory speech at a meeting to celebrate the so-called 45th anniversary of the founding of the Armed Forces.

In this speech, he raved that the North is reinforcing its Armed Forces, pushing for nuclear weapons development with strong will, concentrating weapons on areas close to the Armistice Line, and so forth. He also babbled that only when one has might, can one safeguard peace and ensure something.

These are shameless, vicious and slanderous remarks, same as a thief calling "Stop thief!" and are intolerable absurd utterances instigating North-South confrontation.

As has been known to all, there is no change—not even of the slightest degree—in our position to resolve national reunification peacefully through dialogue and negotiations, and not by means of Armed Forces. This is proven by a number of proposals we put forward for the peaceful reunification.

Accordingly, we systematically reduced arms and even now mobilized numerous soldiers of the People's Army into socialist economic construction.

No matter how frenziedly the South Korean ruler may outcry that we reinforced Armed Forces and concentrated weapons along the Armistice Line, no one would trust his remarks. This is also applicable to the issue of nuclear weapons development.

We have repeatedly clarified that we have neither intention nor ability to develop nuclear weapons nor is there any necessity to do so. The fact that we have no intention whatsoever to develop nuclear weapons was proven by the proposal we put forward with the initiative during the second round of DPRK-U.S. talks for replacing our existing graphite-moderated reactor and related nuclear facilities with light-water-moderated reactor.

At a time when the whole world recognized that we are not developing nuclear weapons, only the South Korean ruling bunch persistently kicked off nuclear rackets.

It is none other than the South Korean ruling bunch itself that actually reinforces Armed Forces and concentrates Armed Forces along the areas in the Military Demarcation Line. Besides, the South Korean authorities themselves are accelerating the nuclear weapons development.

Nevertheless, Kim Yong-sam viciously slandered and smeared us, fellow countrymen, after making remarks some time ago on the higher position of the nation than outside forces, dialogue and exchange with us, and so forth.

Kim Yong-sam, who unprecedentedly slandered us, obviously has no will for national reconciliation and unity but has only a malicious intention to harm fellow countrymen. Otherwise, how can he, claiming to be the ruler, make such absurd remarks of instigating North-South confrontation without hesitation?

Utterances about arms buildup, concentration of weapons, nuclear weapons development and so forth, are merely a trick designed to justify war preparation and nuclear weapons development maneuvers that the South Korean rulers themselves are accelerating.

Since the president of the so-called civilian government made such foolish absurd remarks, Han Sung-chu, the foreign minister who is now visiting the United States, is also raving about sanctions against us, a so-called agreement with the United States, and so forth.

How absurd Kim Yong-sam's remarks were was shown in the fact that he even argued pro and con about the bumper harvest in the northern half of the Republic. The abnormal weather phenomenon exerted the same influence on both the North and the South of the Korean peninsula. Because of the abnormal weather phenomenon and the reactionary agricultural policy of the authorities, the South Korean farms have the poorest harvest this year.

However, thanks to the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the northern half of the Republic again has a rare rich harvest in the plains, mountain areas, rice paddies, and in dry fields.

Therefore, joy for and pride in a rich harvest are overflowing everywhere in the northern half. However, being jealous of fruition in rich harvest by fellow countrymen, he made ridiculous remarks. This shows that he has lost even his reason, going beyond the frenzy of slandering the North.

The groundless and provocative slander of us by the South Korean ruler seeks no other purpose. Today the South Korean economy, industry and agriculture have been ruined. As the result of this, the people's complaints and dissatisfaction with the civilian regime have reached an extreme point. In order to maintain power, the ruling bunch, even throwing away the mask of civilian politics, began to implement the civilian fascist dictatorship. However, a rumor that the incumbent regime can hardly survive until the end of this year is now circulating among the people.

Thus, the South Korean ruling bunch is attempting to divert the people's protest and resistance elsewhere. It is also pursuing a mean purpose for aggravating North-South confrontation and for putting the brake on DPRK-U.S. talks.

However, this is a foolish act. The reckless act of the South Korean ruler will only bring about the result of deepening antagonism and confrontation between the North and the South.

Former dictators who attempted to seek the way for survival from North-South confrontation in the past are now being branded as traitors.

By seeking a lesson from this, the South Korean authorities had better act with discretion.

Press Criticism Cited

SK0310085293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0818 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 3 (KCNA)—South Korean ruler Kim Yong-sam at a "ceremony for commemorating the 45th founding anniversary of the Army" on October 1 pandered the confrontation of "strength", preposterously slandering the North with much ado about "arms buildup" and "nuclear development".

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today denounce this as a grave arrogant and unjust behaviour, an act of throwing a wet blanket over the desire of the fellow countrymen for peace and reunification and an unpardonable vicious challenge to us.

The news analyst of NODONG SINMUN says:

The South Korean ruler's agitation of confrontation is a scream of those upset by the daily growing influence of our Republic which is victoriously advancing with the might of singlehearted unity under the banner of the immortal chuche idea; it is a foolish impudent act to check it with a thick voice.

It is not so surprising that the South Korean ruler at a crisis in which his future cannot be foreseen is abusing the North to divert the attention of home and the world elsewhere. It is the South Korean rulers who have amassed large Armed Forces of aggression along the Military Demarcation Line and staged nuclear war exercises against the North such as "Team Spirit", "93 Ulchi" and "Ulchi Focus Lens" to create the danger of war.

This notwithstanding, they are inciting confrontation against the North with fabrication, which proves that they are intentionally aggravating the North-South relations and taking the road of rejecting the fellow countrymen and depending on the outside forces.

Now that through the DPRK-US talks a foundation for essential settlement of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula has been laid and the "nuclear suspicion" of the North completely removed, the South Korean rulers are crying for "sanction" against the North by fabricating "suspicion of nuclear development". It cannot but be a deliberate move to aggravate the North-South relations and the situation of the Korean peninsula and apply the brake to the DPRK-US talks for solving the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula.

The news analyst of MINJU CHOSON says that Kim Yong-sam who posed as "civilian president" must not act recklessly, drawing a lesson—what consequence comes from taking the lead in the North-South confrontation—from the end of the successive military dictators.

Kim Yong-sam 'Political Charlatan'

SK0410050193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 4 Oct 93

["Political Charlatan's Disgusting Praise of his Own 'Achievements'"— KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 4 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today denounces the South Korean chief executive Kim Yong-sam's noisy advertisement of his own "achievements" since the emergence of the "civilian government", branding it as a political cartoon to whitewash his ugly color of a political charlatan, fool the people and bridge over the political crisis.

The news analyst says:

In his "policy speech" some time ago, Kim Yong-sam claimed that he was "establishing political culture of the civilian era" with his bold decision.

His past career is too filthy and the present South Korean reality is too grim for him to style himself an "advocate of civilian politics" alien to military fascism.

It is foolish of Kim Yong-sam with a lifelong career of political prostitution to try to cheat people by throwing the "civilian" veil over the bastard "government," an offspring of his "political marriage" with the military fascist forces of the "Sixth Republic."

Dismayed at the growing fighting spirit of the people for independence, democracy and reunification, Kim Yong-sam openly revealed his real nature as a "civilian fascist."

Nevertheless, he is advertising "establishment" of "political culture in the civilian era". This reminds one of a prostitute boasting of her chastity.

While advertising his own "achievements," the chief executive of South Korea waxed quite eloquent, as if irregularities had been liquidated in South Korean society. Irregularities, however, cannot be liquidated and social justice cannot be established without restructuring the colonial, dependent, fascist oppressive system and corrupt and ailing South Korean society.

Waste smells bad even if it is wrapped in silk.

Commentary Notes North-South Crop Differences

SK0410113993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1154 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "A Distinct Difference in Reality Between the North and the South"]

[Text] There is a distinct difference in reality between the North and the South. We have an unprecedented bumper crop again this year in the northern half of the Republic in which the food problem has long been solved with the socialist rural thesis of our country brilliantly realized.

Therefore, wherever you go in the northern half of the Republic, you see the boasting of the bumper crop and the pleasure of bumper crops overflowing. You see big smiles on the faces of those who are at work harvesting.

However, in South Korea, which is connected by land with the northern half of the Republic, people are to suffer from the worst crop in 13 years.

According to a data from South Korea, the rice production this year is expected to be 3.2 million sok less than a normal crop and 4.22 million sok less than last year's crop. These, however, are not dependable figures. A lawmaker from the South Korean Democratic Party said that the government announced the reduction of rice production this year to be 3.7 million sok, far less than its original estimate of 7.9 million sok. He branded the authorities' announcement as a typical example of its agricultural policy based on rule of thumb, and demanded reinvestigation.

The unprecedented bad crop of the South Korean rural areas is far from attributable to the unusual weather. The unusual weather hit hard not only South Korea but the northern half of the Republic as well. But everywhere in the northern half of the Republic, not only the crops grown in rice paddies and dry fields but fruits and vegetables are assured of a bumper crop.

The South Korean authorities rave that the unusual weather characterized by low temperatures caused a bad crop. This, however, is a mean tactic aimed at escaping from their responsibility for ruining the crop.

The bad crop in South Korea is the inevitable consequence of the authorities' antipeople agricultural policy. As everyone knows, the South Korean ruling bunches, past and present, totally opened the farm produce market and brought in foreign countries' surplus farm produce recklessly, leading South Korean agriculture to a failure. Hence, the farmers, whose debt increased despite their hard work, had to leave their land to roam about in the hope of finding a place that would sustain their lives. At that, the authorities ruined the farming land for war preparations. Building industrial plants and golf courses, they are drastically reducing farm land. There are some 200 golf courses in South Korea. The area occupied by the golf courses is said to account for 62 million pyong. This shows well how farm land is being reduced. As a result, the rate of self-sufficiency in South Korea fell to 34.6 percent. Twenty-three percent of the adolescents have to do without one meal or more each day.

The present rulers of South Korea are following the antipeople agricultural policy, babbling that they would solve the rural problem fundamentally and that they would make the rural area not for the farmers to leave but for them to return to. Implementing the so-called new agricultural policy, they are further accelerating the opening of the farming and livestock produce market, increasing the rate of the farming and livestock import liberalization to 92.1 percent.

Therefore, a bad crop was an inevitability from the first year of the so-called civilian regime. The South Korean farmers, having had their crop ruined again this year, are raising a voice of grievance against the authorities, denouncing the new agricultural policy as a policy of banishing farmers, a policy of leading farmers to death.

As long as South Korea remains a colony and as long as the authorities' antipeople agricultural policy continues, the South Korean rural areas will continue to suffer from bad crops. The distinct difference in reality between the North and the South clearly shows which is the bad place for people to live in and which is the people's paradise for people to live in comfortably.

Kim Il-song Sends Sympathy to Indian President

SK0310003093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2318 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 2 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Friday sent a message of sympathy to Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, president of the Republic of India, in connection with a heavy loss of lives and property caused by a big earthquake in Maharashtra State, India.

President Kim Il-song expressed deep sympathy and consolation to the president and, through him, to the people of the afflicted area and said he believes that earthquake damages will be recovered at an early date and the living of the people in the afflicted area be stabilized by the positive efforts of the Indian Government and people.

Kim Chong-il Receives Letters Pledging Loyalty

SK0410111993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 4 (KCNA)—A large number of letters and significant reply letters carrying love and trust, loyalty and filial piety are addressed between the leader and people in Korea.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il recently received letters from Pyo Il-sok and his six brothers of the ore transport workteam no. 5 of the Musan mining complex, Yi Chang-ung, an officer of the Korean People's Army, and his six brothers and one sister, Yi Chong-un, an officer of the KPA, and his five brothers and Choe Hak-mun and Choe Hye-chong.

In their letters they unanimously pledged to hold general Kim Chong-il in high esteem as the great leader of the revolution and their father and remain loyal and filial to him for ever.

Pak Yong-chol and his seven brothers and Yi Chang-ung and his six brothers and one sister, servicemen of the KPA, said they would be eight rifles and eight bombs to defend the party and the leader at the cost of their lives and thus true revolutionaries who are taking the lead in the defence of the general and Pyo Il-sok and his six brothers pointed out that they would remain faithful to the party and defend socialism by boosting the iron ore production to the last moment of their lives.

Choe Hak-mun and Choe Hye-chong in their letter said they would become a true son and daughter unfailingly loyal to Comrade Kim Chong-il who is looking after them, orphans, with the utmost care of their real father.

Comrade Kim Chong-il received loyal letters from many units and broad segments of people throughout the country in the 90s alone.

Whenever the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received the letters from them, he sent them reply letters carrying love and trust.

Indeed, this is a manifestation of the firm revolutionary will of our people to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche, rallied around the leader in one mind and a vivid canvas which shows the revolutionary traits of our society.

South Korea

Chances of Talks Between IAEA, DPRK 'Remote'

SK0210002493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0012 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Vienna, Oct. 1 (YONHAP)—Chances appear remote for a second round of negotiations between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and North Korea, IAEA spokesman Hans Meyer said Friday.

North Korea had proposed holding negotiations during the 37th IAEA general conference and the IAEA counterproposed that they meet in Vienna on Oct. 5-8, Meyer said.

The IAEA had hoped to have preliminary contacts with North Korea during the general conference, but North Korea has not given any indication it will send a delegation, Meyer said.

He said that there has not been any formal notification from North Korea on its intention to reject the talks, but the IAEA regards the North Korean warning issued on Sept. 27 as a virtual rejection of further talks with the IAEA.

In a telegram sent to IAEA Secretary-general Hans Blix on Sept. 27, North Korea warned that it will cancel the talks if the IAEA adopts an anti-North Korean resolution at its general conference.

Meyer indicated that the IAEA will consider taking followup measures including submitting a report on the North Korean nuclear issue to the U.N. General Assembly.

Meanwhile, David Kyd, another IAEA spokesman, said he also saw slim chances of IAEA's talks with North Korea being realized. But since the IAEA has no intention of isolating North Korea, it still awaits a North Korean reply, he added.

IAEA Passes Resolution on DPRK Nuclear Issue

U.S., ROK Stance

SK0210023593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 2 Oct 93

[By Yi Son-kun]

[Text] Vienna, Oct. 2 (YONHAP)—An overwhelming majority of the world community stepped up the pressure on North Korea when the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) passed a resolution Friday [1 October] urging the communist regime once again to accept IAEA inspection of its nuclear facilities.

But while the IAEA demands immediate and overall acceptance of its inspection, North Korea reacted strongly, refusing to talk to the IAEA before it resumes negotiations with the United States, thus complicating the situation further.

The United States has said it will not negotiate with North Korea unless Pyongyang negotiates with the IAEA for inspection and resume its dialogue with South Korea on efforts, among other things, to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

Although the passage of a resolution on North Korea was the first in the IAEA's history, it has only managed to appeal to North Korea to accept its inspection and promised to deal with the North Korean issue at the next general conference.

The IAEA has no other alternative to counter North Korea if Pyongyang continues to take the hardline policy. In other words, the North Korean question was once again proved to be an issue that the IAEA cannot help resolve.

There is a possibility, of course, that the North Korean issue will be referred to the United Nations Security Council for further action, including economic sanctions. But many analysts believe the problem can be solved only through talks between North Korea and the United States.

If Pyongyang is using its threat to leave the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) as a means to squeeze economic aid from the West, especially from the United States, as some analysts believe, it will no doubt continue to use the issue of IAEA inspections to keep its contact with the United States.

In his speech to the IAEA general conference, North Korean representative Kim Kwang-sop denounced the United States and said the North Korean nuclear issue is not a technical problem but a "political issue."

Yet, Kim declared that North Korea was convinced that the problem of inspection will be resolved through successful talks between Pyongyang and Washington, hinting strongly that North Korea wishes to continue its negotiations with the United States.

Other North Korean officials, using many international occasions, also expressed their country's wishes for direct negotiations with the United States. Invariably, they all expressed complaints that Washington was delaying the U.S.-North Korean high-level talks by attaching various conditions.

Most diplomatic sources here do not believe, however, that the United States will accept North Korea's demands, including improvement in bilateral relations and economic aid, just because North Korea would accept IAEA inspection.

What is most likely to happen, therefore, is that the issue will continue to be debated in the international arena until all concerned nations such as Japan, the United States, China and South Korea arrived at a point of agreement satisfactory to each and every one of them.

In this regard, many observers believe South Korea should not simply stay in the ranks of countries like the United States and Japan to keep putting pressure on North Korea to accept nuclear inspection.

Rather, Seoul should establish an independent position that is most beneficial for it and pursue quiet diplomacy on the basis of its new policy, they say.

Since each concerned country seems to be pursuing its own interest, South Korea should put the interest of "the Korean people" ahead of all other considerations and pursue a policy on the North Korean issue accordingly, they say.

Government Welcomes Resolution

SK0210013693 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0100 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman said on 2 October that the government believes that the fact that a resolution urging North Korea to implement the nuclear accord was passed at the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] general conference reflects the opinion of the international community that resolving the North's nuclear issue cannot be delayed any longer.

The government revealed that it urges North Korea to take various measures to dispel suspicions of its nuclear development by positively accepting all peaceful efforts to resolve the nuclear issue as soon as possible, fulfill the obligations with the IAEA, and implement the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Urges Pyongyang To Take Note

SK0210014393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0120 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea has urged North Korea to take note of an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution on its nuclear problem, warning Pyongyang that it reflects a global consensus that the situation cannot be allowed to drag on any longer.

"This resolution is the first expression of deep interest and concern in the North Korean nuclear problem by the IAEA general meeting, the highest decision-making authority of the 117-member organization," says a Foreign Ministry statement issued Saturday.

"We believe that it reflects the prevalent consensus in the international community that the solution of the North Korean nuclear problem can no longer be delayed," the statement says.

The IAEA general meeting adopted a resolution in Vienna on Saturday urging the Stalinist state to cooperate "immediately" with the agency for full implementation of its nuclear safeguards accord.

Forty-six members sponsored the resolution, and 72 out of 85 voting countries said yes to adopting it. Only North Korea and Libya voted against, while China abstained.

The IAEA was denied access to North Korea's nuclear facilities after it demanded to see two highly suspicious sites, and all inspection activities are currently suspended.

The statement urges North Korea to accept the international community's peaceful efforts for resolution of the situation and to comply with its obligations with the IAEA.

DPRK Replaces UN Official

SK0210060893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0557 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] United Nations, Oct. 1 (YONHAP)—North Korea has changed its mind on who will address the U.N. General Assembly on Monday, deciding to send Vice Foreign Minister Song Won-ho instead of Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, a deputy premier, officials at the North Korean mission confirmed Friday.

They said Song instead of Kim will make the keynote speech at the United Nations, but did not give reasons for the last-minute switch.

Observers believe that Pyongyang is trying to keep as low a profile as possible now its nuclear suspicion is becoming an international issue and thus decided to send a lower-level figure to the United Nations.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) general conference adopted a resolution in Vienna on Friday urging North Korea to immediately cooperate with the agency on fullscope nuclear safeguards accord.

The IAEA submits its annual report to the U.N. Security Council between middle and late October.

North Declares 'No Obligation' to NPT

SK0210084093 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 2 Oct 93 p 5

[Interview with Yi Song-hyon, researcher at the North Korean Diplomatic Research Institute, by unidentified reporter—place, date not given]

[Text] Yi Song-hyon, researcher at the North Korean Diplomatic Research Institute, attended the 37th General Assembly of the International Atomic Research Agency [IAEA] as a North Korean delegate. He stressed that the North Korean position is that unless the issue of the IAEA's impartiality is resolved first, it cannot accept inspections and that the key to resolving the North Korean nuclear issue depends on progress in dialogue with the United States.

Questions and answers between Yi Song-hyon and reporter are as follows:

[Unidentified reporter] What are the grounds of refusing the IAEA's inspection?

[Yi Song-hyon] We consider that the declaration of the withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] last spring has already been in effect and we have no obligations to the treaty in terms of international laws. We also think that our side has no legal obligations to the nuclear safeguards accord. However, it is seriously not wrong that we might have political obligations if one so insists. Under such "special circumstances," our side has no obligations to accept the inspection and the IAEA's unilateral forcible demand for acceptance of an inspection is entirely unjust.

[Reporter] What is your side's policy on second round negotiations with the IAEA?

[Yi] We consider that negotiations with the IAEA in early October will not likely be held for the time being because the IAEA Board of Governor's meeting adopted a resolution. I believe, however, that Pyongyang will make a decision on the negotiations which were proposed by the IAEA to be held from 5 to 8 October after watching the IAEA's General Assembly and the attitude of its secretariat.

[Reporter] What is the current status and prospect for dialogue between the United States and North Korea?

[Yi] The decisive starting point for the North Korean nuclear issue to be raised internationally is that the United States handed over satellite intelligence to the IAEA and put unjust pressure on our side for special inspections. Therefore, we think that the United States, which manipulates the IAEA and other international organizations behind the scenes, has the key to the solution to the problem.

'Chances High' for Inter-Korean Meeting

Government To Respond to North

SK0210032593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0309 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 2 (YONHAP)—Chances are high for an inter-Korean contact to take place as scheduled on Tuesday as North Korea has virtually dropped its preconditions.

North Korea Premier Kang Song-san, in a telephone message to his South Korean counterpart, Hwang In-song, said Saturday that he would send a three-man delegation to Panmunjom on Oct. 5 for an inter-Korean working-level meeting on exchange of special envoys.

"We, with a sincere hope for realizing an exchange of special envoys at the possible earliest date, expect that your side will send a delegation to the working-level meeting and make clear replies to the basic questions we have put up," Kang said.

The message is considered a retreat from demands that South Korea stop its "nuclear war exercise" and stop seeking international cooperation in dealing with North Korea's nuclear issue before an inter-Korean contact.

The North's delegates will be Vice Bureau Chief Pak Yong-su and Section Chiefs Choe Sung-chol and Choe Song-ik of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland. A four-man group will accompany the delegation, Kang said.

The South, positively responding to Kang's message, is expected to say in a reply Monday that it will send a delegation to Panmunjom on Tuesday.

Vice Unification Minister Song Yong-tae said Saturday that the government will positively study Kang's message as it is a positive response to "our side's consistent demand for unconditional contact for the solution of the nuclear issue."

He added that the government would send an official reply to Kang's message on Monday.

North's Proposal Welcomed

SK0310021393 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 3 Oct 93 p 5

[From the "Political Stroll" column]

[Text] In connection with North Korea's proposal to hold a working-level contact for the exchange of special envoys, the Foreign Ministry responded by saying: "We welcome the resumption of the South-North dialogue, but the key to resolving the nuclear issue will be dependent on the attitude of North Korea in the working-level contact."

A Foreign Ministry official asserted on 2 October: "It seems that North Korea determined that it cannot refuse to solve the nuclear issue unconditionally because of the atmosphere of the international community made evident by the adoption of a resolution against the North at the International Atomic Energy Agency's general conference. Especially, it seems that the North decided to hold the South-North dialogue as a preliminary step at a time when it is putting emphasis on holding contacts with the United States."

'Ready To Stop' Joint Exercise

SK0310054893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0536 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea plans to propose exchange visits by presidential special envoys of the two Koreas this month at a working-level inter-Korean meeting scheduled for Tuesday, a Seoul government official said Sunday.

At the meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom, the Seoul government will make its stance clear that South Korea is ready to stop the South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise, Team Spirit, and to give positive support for Pyongyang's efforts to establish diplomatic relations with the United States and Japan, only after a breakthrough in the North Korean nuclear problem is made, the official said.

"We don't want to see the inter-Korean contact drag along indefinitely over trifles such as agenda," said the official. "This prompts us to press the North for an early arrangement of the exchange of envoys."

The official said the annual Korea-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) in Seoul next month "will have a decisive influence on whether Team Spirit will be stopped or not and therefore special envoys of the two Koreas should make exchange visits by the end of this month."

To Propose Special Envoy Exchange

SK0410014793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0139 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea will propose an October exchange of special envoys with North Korea in a working-level meeting at Panmunjom on Tuesday, informed government sources said Monday.

In order for Seoul and Washington to decide whether to suspend their annual joint military exercise "Team Spirit" next year in the Korea-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) this November, there must be a breakthrough in solving the North Korean nuclear issue this month, a government official said.

Seoul will tell Pyongyang at their Panmunjom meeting Tuesday that if there is progress in solving the nuclear issue, in addition to halting Team Spirit it will support rapprochement between Pyongyang and Washington and between Pyongyang and Tokyo.

The official said Seoul will urge Pyongyang to exchange special envoys as soon as possible because it does not want a prolonged series of working-level meetings.

The SCM, slated for early next month in Seoul, will be a watershed for the joint strategy of South Korea and the United States toward North Korea, because in the SCM they will decide whether or not to hold Team Spirit next year, he added.

This means an exchange of special envoys between North and South Korea must take place this month if Team Spirit is to be suspended.

The official said, however, that Seoul has not yet set an express deadline for the exchange.

Message on Meeting Sent to DPRK

SK0410020693 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0102 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] A contact of working-level delegates for exchange of special envoys—which will be the first North-South dialogue for the new government—will be held in Panmunjom on 5 October.

This morning, the government sent a telephone message to Kang Song-san, DPRK administration council premier, in the name of Prime Minister Hwang In-song.

which said: It is positive that North Korea responded to the North-South dialogue for the settlement of the nuclear issue.

The government has accepted North Korea's 2 October proposal to hold on 5 October a contact of the working-level delegates for the exchange of special envoys, and that it will send our side's three delegates to Panmunjom on 5 October.

Three figures, including Song Yong-tae, Unification Board vice minister, will be sent to Panmunjom as the working-level delegates from our side.

Accordingly, the North-South dialogue—which has been suspended since the contact of chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee on 25 January—will be resumed in nearly eight months. As a result, the new government has come to participate in the direct North-South dialogue for the settlement of the nuclear issue for the first time.

A relevant government official said on 4 October: In the contact of the working-level delegates on 5 October, our side is going to put the working-level issue [silmujogin munje] for the success of exchange of special envoys on the agenda items for discussion based on its position that the exchange of special envoys must be realized within this month in order to deal earnestly with the nuclear issue. The government will react sternly if North Korea executes a strategy to delay the exchange of special envoys.

It is very likely, however, that North Korea will continue to call on our side to express its position on the so-called suspension of the nuclear war exercise, which the North Korean side has so far put forward as a precondition for the dialogue. Therefore, it is not clear if progress will be made in the dialogue.

Panmunjom Meeting Accepted

SK0410031793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea has accepted North Korea's offer to hold a working-level meeting on an exchange of special envoys at the truce village of Panmunjom on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Hwang In-song, in a telephone message to his North Korean counterpart, Kang Song-san, said Monday that he would send a three-man delegation to an inter-Korean working-level meeting to be held at Panmunjom at 10 A.M. Tuesday "as your side proposed."

Vice Unification Minister Song Yong-tae will head the delegation, the other two are Kim Il-mu, councilor of the office of the Prime Minister, and Chang Chae-yong, director of the Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Bureau.

It will be the first inter-Korean dialogue since Jan. 25, when the joint South-North Nuclear Control Committee last met, and the first South-North contact since President Kim Yong-sam took office in late February.

Hwang said in the message: "I hope that both sides will smoothly settle procedural problems related to the exchange of special envoys for early realization of the exchange in the working-level meeting and that the meeting will provide an important opportunity of resolving pending issues, such as the resumption of the prime ministers meeting and the nuclear problem.

"I expect your side to show a sincere attitude in the working-level meeting and the meeting to produce productive results."

Song said that because discussion would be limited to procedural matters of the special envoy exchange, Pyongyang was expected to be sincere in the meeting and not raise again its conditions for Seoul to halt its "nuclear war exercise" and stop seeking international cooperation in dealing with North Korea's nuclear issue.

Background on North's Delegate

SK0410082193 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 4 Oct 93 p 5

[Article by reporter O Yong-hwan: "Who Is Pak Yong-su, Senior Delegate of the North Korean Side?"]

[Text] Pak Yong-su, (56), deputy director in the secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] in North Korea, is coming to a working-level meeting for the exchange of special envoys of the North and the South as senior delegate of the North Korean side on 5 October. He is known as an outstanding expert within North Korea in dialogue with the South.

People assess that with perfectly logical eloquence and brazen-heartedness, he can be called a talented "talk specialist."

Born in Huchang, North Pyongan Province, Pak graduated at the top of the class from the department of politics and economy, which is regarded as the highest department within Kim Il-song University. After working as a NODONG SINMUN reporter, Pak became an activist specializing in South Korean affairs.

Pak appeared in the table of negotiations with South Korea held in India in 1978 to discuss the repatriation of Yi Tae-yong, then councilor in the ROK Embassy in Vietnam. Since that time, Pak has been known to our side. However, since he played only the "villain's role" in North-South dialogue, he has been regarded as an unpleasant figure by our side.

Pak came to the second round of negotiations for the exchange of old home-visiting groups, which attracted people's attention in 1989, as a working-level delegate of the North Korean side. He is the very figure who, in the negotiation, insisted on performing the North Korean revolutionary opera, "A Flower-Selling Girl," in South Korea, and who finally ruptured the negotiations.

Pak apparently received a directive from Pyongyang to rupture the mutual visits of the groups under the circumstances developed after the collapse of the Soviet Union. He then displayed skillful negotiations tactics, including putting forward the card of "A Flower-Selling Girl."

At the negotiation table for mutual visits of old parents-visiting groups, Pak raised the issue of the repatriation of Yi In-mo and thus made the mutual visits null and void.

That he is a talented expert in dragging out time by catching others in their own words will make our side feel that he is a rough dialogue partner.

In actuality, he caught Yi Yong-tok, our side's senior delegate to the North-South Red Cross talks held in Pyongyang in 1985, in his own words, and he thus delayed the talks.

Chong Si-song, director of the Unification Research Institute who was then a member of the advisory council for Red Cross talks, said: There was no previous incident in which a delegate attempted to pick a quarrel with the remarks of the senior delegate of the other side to the talks during the North-South talks. However, Pak broke this incident. Therefore, our side protested to the North side, stressing that he was not entitled to become a delegate to the negotiations.

The North Korean side's decision to dispatch Pak, a talented expert in talks, to the 5 October working contact was prompted by the fact that the contact is being held amid an unfavorable situation, including the adoption of a resolution by the International Atomic Energy Agency against North Korea.

Since our side proposed a dialogue on 20 May, North Korea replied in its telephone message in June that it will send Kim Wan-su, responsible councilor in the Administration Council, to the talks. However, North Korea immediately withdrew this message. Many people observe that this was prompted by Pak's outstanding negotiation tactics.

Pak is also known to be an appropriate counterpart of Song Yong-tae, vice minister of National Unification Board who is also our side's senior delegate to the working contact. They met each other for the first time in 1985 as spokesmen for and delegates to the Red Cross talks respectively. Since that time, the two were consistent counterparts as delegates to the first and second rounds of working contacts for the exchange of home-visiting groups.

The forthcoming working contact is the first North-South dialogue since the new government took office. Accordingly, people will pay great attention to how these two veterans will lead the talks.

Official Reports DPRK-U.S. 'Hotline'

SK0410011293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0050 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] New York, Oct. 3 (YONHAP)—North Korea and the United States recently opened a channel to exchange government-to-government messages whenever necessary, a South Korean official said Sunday.

This channel, separate from the Beijing meetings between counselors from North Korean and U.S. Embassies, is similar in function to the inter-Korean "hotline," the official said.

Washington used this channel to send a message that Pyongyang should not belittle the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution against it last week and that Pyongyang's problems with the IAEA have left the hands of South Korea and the United States, according to the official [sentence as received].

Washington is also said to have made clear that the nuclear problem will be referred to the U.N. Security Council and that sanctions are inevitable unless there is a breakthrough within a week or two.

The two countries, lacking diplomatic relations, opened the channel in June to prepare for their first round of high-level nuclear talks in New York and it has remained open since, he said.

Contact is mostly between Ho Chong, deputy chief of the North Korean mission to the United Nations, and Kenneth Quinones, officer for North Korean affairs at the U.S. State Department, the official said.

"This dialogue channel has opened with the understanding of our government," he said. "But because these last minute talks require confidentiality, details of the talks cannot be confirmed."

Official Analyzes Latest Military Moves in North

SK0410085593 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 4 Oct 93 p 2

[Text] The government has started an analysis of details of North Korea's moves in connection with the fact that North Korea recently refused holding negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency and that it is continuously increasing military equipment and intensifying military exercise.

On 2 October, a high-ranking government official said "North Korea is strikingly increasing its combat strength and military exercise in comparison with last year in spite of its extremely difficult food situation." He added "The government is gathering information concerning North Korea's military moves through various information agencies including the Defense Ministry."

The official said: "The government is paying attention to North Korea's military moves because they became more active than last year despite the aggravated economic situation in North Korea.

He also said: "There has been no particular move in the North Korean Navy. But, its Air Force, which had little exercise last year, has remarkably increased taking off and landing exercises of fighter planes this year. The North Korean Army has also increased its moves twofold from last year. North Korea has not decreased the production of conventional weapons at all and is deploying them for actual fighting."

He said: "Most foreign media reports on North Korea's military moves are understood to be true. In particular, North Korea's multi-chambered rockets, which were deployed only in the western front last year, have been deployed to all fronts this year. One can demolish completely a small or medium-sized city with the firepower of only one division of these rockets."

He said "At the present time, we cannot regard the North Korean military moves as a preparation for southward invasion," and added "The authorities are now carefully observing North Korean moves to understand their purpose—whether they are a demonstration aimed at gaining the upper hand of negotiations with the United States or a means to strengthen the internal control system."

Inter-Korea Trade of Agricultural Goods Drops

SK0410021793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 4 (YONHAP)—Inter-Korean trade in agricultural, forestry and marine products declined in the first half of the year as inter-Korean relations worsened because of the North Korean nuclear problem, according to government data released Monday.

The data, presented by the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry for parliamentary inspection of state affairs, shows that South Korea bought 6,678,000 U.S. dollars of these products from North Korea in January-June this year. The figure is 43 percent of the 15.52 million dollars for the whole of 1992.

South Korean purchases of agricultural, forestry and marine products from North Korea were 5,323,000 dollars in 1990, 7,687,000 dollars in 1991 and 15.52 million dollars last year.

Walnuts topped the list with 2,232,000 dollars worth of them bought from the North, followed by raw materials for herb medicine with 1,825,000 dollars, bracken with 818,000 dollars and dried acorns with 574,000 dollars.

Small amounts of leaf tobacco, mung beans, lilies and frozen pollacks were also purchased.

Meanwhile, North Korea bought 6,000 dollars of laver from South Korea in the first half of this year among agricultural, forestry and fisheries products. Pyongyang bought 1,607,000 dollars of rice from Seoul in 1991 and 70,000 dollars of garlic last year.

Plans for Further Economic Cooperation With North

SK0410084993 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 4 Oct 93 p 3

[Text] It was learned on 3 October that the government seeking plans to promote economic cooperation with North Korea in preparation for the settlement of the North Korean nuclear issue as well as for the revitalization of North-South economic exchange and cooperation. These plans include escalating direct trade with North Korea and revitalizing goods processing trade under subcontract with it.

The Unification Board Ministry believes that it is desirable to turn the form of the current North-South indirect trade into one of direct trade. Accordingly, it has decided to positively push ahead with plans to expand the import of direct trade items—such as garlics, frozen pollacks, and oriental herbs that promoted direct trade with North Korea last year.

The government has also decided to formulate plans to turn the current processing trade under subcontract with North Korea—in which South Korea provides raw materials to North Korea to produce the finished goods by utilizing North Korea's cheap labor power and outdated equipment in the labor-intensive light industry—into the processing trade on commission in the form of joint venture in which South Korea provides idle facilities and technology to North Korea.

In connection with the escalation of the North-South economic cooperation, the government has also reportedly selected the following items, such as clothing, dolls, shoes—which are produced in the labor-intensive light industry—ramyon, seasonings, juice, edible oil—which are produced in foodstuff fields—and tourist service, as the promising items for South Korea's investment in North Korea.

CPRF Official Said Taken to Concentration Camp

SK0210063093 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 2 Oct 93 p 2

[Text] It was revealed today that Han Si-hae (59), vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF], has recently been purged and taken to a political concentration camp. Han's purge is considered to be connected with the recent conflicts between hardliners and moderates over measures to solve the nuclear issue.

Han's purge draws our attention in connection with the tough stance North Korea has recently been taking. Han is known to be an expert on the United States and served as a delegate of the North Korean UN mission for seven years. He was one of the leading moderates in the North

Korean regime representing the DPRK in a behind-the-scenes inter-Korean contact during the Sixth Republic. Han's South Korean counterpart in the contact was Mr. Pak Chol-on.

CPRF Vice Chairman's Purge Analyzed

SK0310015993 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 2 Oct 93 p 5

[By reporter O Yong-hwan: "Meaning of Purge of Han Si-hae, Vice Chairman of CPRF"]

[Text] The purge of Han Si-hae, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF], a moderate and expert on South Korea and the United States, suggests many things about the hardline policy North Korea is taking on the solution of the nuclear issue.

Contrary to previous expectations, North Korea has adopted the toughest stance in its negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency over the inspection issue and in the North-South dialogue. It is very likely that Han's purge is a signal showing that the hardliners within the North Korean leadership are gaining ground in solving the nuclear issue.

According to an analysis of our intelligence source, Han's pragmatist remarks made during the overseas pannational rally held in Tokyo in August were the direct cause for the purge.

Han Si-hae is known to have had personal blemishes.

When he was deputy director in the reunification front department (vice ministerial-level), his subordinates, including No Chol-su, who served in the United States as councelor, were charged with bribery. Han Si-hae went through a reindoctrination course because of this.

However, being a figure close to Kim Chong-il, Han was reinstated and became active immediately after reindoctrination.

The fact that he was the North Korean side's channel of contact with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Solomon in connection with North Korea's entry into the United Nations and that he was an expert on U.S. affairs, who extended a letter inviting former U.S. President Carter to visit North Korea, is worthy of particular attention.

On 16 September North Korea notified the United States that it would not hesitate to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty if the North Korean nuclear issue was referred to the UN Security Council. This was quite a different attitude from its previous position of appeasement toward the United States.

A relevant government official said: The purge of Han Si-hae, who is in good terms with U.S. officials, may contain a message suggesting to the U.S. side that North Korea can turn to a hardline stance.

Han was a moderate on South Korean affairs and acted as the behind-the-scenes counterpart of Pak Chol-on, special presidential assistant during the Sixth Republic. Therefore, people wonder whether there is a direct relationship between his purge and North Korea's recent hardline policy toward South Korea.

Therefore, it is believed that along with the possibility that Han's purge is a prelude of a reshuffle in the camp in charge of the South and U.S. affairs, other moderate groups may have been overthrown in succession.

It is noticeable that in early August, North Korea suddenly replaced Choe Pong-chun, expert in South Korean affairs who was also the North side's head of the North-South liaison office, with Yi Song-tok. Choe was also a close aid of Kim Chong-il and has been known to be familiar with South Korean and U.S. affairs and to have played a significant role in relations between the two sides. But it is not known what position he took after the replacement.

It is still early to determine if the hardliners have taken full control of North Korea's internal power.

North Korea is still making every effort to obtain Western economic cooperation on the Najin and Sonbong regions, which were declared free trade zones. It is also speculated that the recent series of hardline winds are a strategy to obtain maximum concessions and to take the initiative in its relations with the ROK and the United States.

However, it is certain that Han's purge signals that something is changing in the moderates' stance in North Korea's internal power.

Ministry Officials Reaffirm Support for Yeltsin

SK0410021593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0141 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 4 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Foreign Ministry issued emergency instructions on Monday to all missions in Russia to put top priority on protecting Korean nationals.

An estimated 2,000 South Koreans are currently in the strife-torn nation, including 400 embassy staff and businessmen, 500 students and 1,000 tourists.

All are said to be safe.

Ministry officials said they were "extremely concerned" at the developments in Moscow, and had reaffirmed in a morning emergency meeting that the South Korean Government stands by President Boris Yeltsin and his reform policies.

Foreign Ministry Affirms Support for Yeltsin

SK0410092093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0852 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea registered grave concerns at developing unrest in Russia Monday and hoped for early peaceful resolution of the crisis while reiterating support for President Boris Yeltsin.

"We express deep concerns at the incidents occurring in Moscow and hope that the crisis will be resolved soon in a peaceful way," Foreign Ministry spokesman said through a statement.

"Our government wishes for Russia to quickly find political stability through an election held democratically in free and fair atmosphere," the statement said.

President Sends Condolences to India

SK0110074093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 1 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam sent a consolatory message Friday to Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao for victims of a devastating earthquake in Maharashtra State that reportedly killed thousands.

"I've been struck with shock and grief at the bad news that a strong earthquake had hit India, causing tremendous casualties... I deliver my and the Korean people's sincere consolations to the Indian people," Kim said.

He said that he hoped the Indian people to overcome the disaster with courage and unity and return to normal conditions at an early date.

Further on Presidential Message

SK0310020293 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 3 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] President Kim Yong-sam yesterday sent a consolatory message to Indian Prime Minister Narashimha Rao following the disastrous earthquake in Maharashtra State which has claimed thousands of lives.

"I am overwhelmed with shock and grief at the news that a strong earthquake had hit India, causing tremendous casualties....I join the Korean people in sending our sincere condolences to the Indian people," Kim said.

He said that he knows the Indian people will overcome the disaster with courage and unity.

Technology Transfer for Yulgok Said 'Unsatisfactory'

SK0410083693 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 3 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] In purchasing major weapons, such as F-16s, UH-60s, and submarines, for the Yulgok project, the government adopted the far more expensive method of production through the introduction of technology rather than the less expensive direct purchase method. It has, however, been revealed that although the government adopted this expensive method, the actual effect of technology transfer turns out to be very small.

This has been revealed in the audit report on the Yulgok project which the Board of Audit and Inspection [BAI] submitted to the National Assembly on 2 October.

According to the report, in the case of the Korean Fighter Project, the most expensive program in the Yulgok project, the government adopted the method of production through the introduction of technology, which is $1 billion more expensive than the direct purchase method, requiring a total expenditure of $5.005 billion (3.75082 trillion won), but the effect of technology transfer turns out to be very small.

The BAI says that because the U.S. side excluded 14 key parts, such as RWR, IFF [expansions unknown], and radar from the items for localization on the ground that they are items subject to U.S. Government control, the effect of the technology transfer is unsatisfactory. The said 14 key parts were designated by the Aviation Industry Fostering Committee as policy-oriented items.

The BAI noted that the technology introduction contract, different from the purchasing contract, does not guarantee the implementation of the contract, thereby lacking sufficient binding force for the implementation of technology introduction.

The BAI analyzed the cause of the problem as follows: The government, in the first place, limited the suppliers of weapons to those from the United States, and chose the type of plane without signing an inter-governmental memorandum of understanding concerning the production through introduction of technology. This resulted in handing over the initiative for negotiation to the other party to the contract.

In the case of UH-60 helicopters, the government purchased seven helicopters in finished form. Then the government produced the remaining 74 helicopters through the method of technology introduction, paying a total of $59 million more for the 74 helicopters—$800,000 more for each helicopter. Here also, the effect of technology transfer is doubtful.

The BAI report noted that although the contract stipulated 69 percent in terms of parts and 33.8 percent in terms of price for the rate of localization for the UH-60s, the actual rate of localization turned out to be 40 percent and 25.2 percent respectively.

For the submarine project, for which the government has spent 1.3223 trillion won so far for the six submarines we have introduced, we have adopted the method of production through the introduction of technology, but only two items have been given the benefit of technology transfer.

According to the "status of localization of the submarine project" which the Ministry of National Defense submitted to the National Assembly, only two items, namely, the main propulsion battery and electric wires, have been localized so far. No technology transfer has been made for the parts involving key technology, such as the engine, combat system, propulsion motor, armament, periscope, generator, and emergency surfacing device.

According to a report of the National Defense and Science Institute on the localization of UH-60s obtained by Democratic Party lawmaker Na Pyong-son, member of the National Assembly National Defense Committee, the aviation production and design technology and other key items for which advanced technology transfer is considered necessary have not been localized.

Officials Got Bribes for Project

SK0410030993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0232 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 4 (YONHAP)—Thirteen officials have been proved to have received bribes totaling 2.24 billion won in connection with the Yulgok military buildup project, according to the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI). In a report submitted to the National Assembly last Saturday, the BAI said it uncovered the bribe-taking by tracing the personal bank deposits of 28 officials who were targets of investigation for possible irregularities in the Yulgok project. According to the report, former Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku received bribes totaling 780 million won, comprising 600 million won from Sam Yang Co., 30 million won from Sambu Ace Co., and 150 million won from Jinro Construction Co. Another former Defense Minister, Yi Sang-hun, had deposited ill-gotten money amounting to 150 million won, including 120 million won that he received from Daewoo Corp. Others include Kim Chong-hwi, a former senior presidential secretary for Foreign and National Security Affairs, 145 million won, Kim Chol-u, a former Navy chief of staff, 300 million won, Han Chu-sok, a former Air Force chief of staff, 338 million won, and Cho Nam-pung, a former commander of the First Army, 300 million won.

Meanwhile, it has been pointed out that the national treasury was plundered by corrupt officials under the pretext of carrying out the Yulgok military buildup project. A vast amount of money also had flowed out of the country.

The South Korean military signed 620 contracts worth 3.2 billion U.S. dollars between 1988 and 1992 for the purchase of military hardware. For those contracts, it paid 46 million dollars in commissions, Rep. Yim Pok-chin said Monday.

Yim, a Democratic Party lawmaker from Kwangju, said part of the commissions were paid to people not directly involved in the contracts.

According to Yim, the military paid 17.6 million dollars out of 1.25 billion dollars of contracts to nine people described as go- betweens between the government and 11 foreign companies that maintained branch offices in Korea.

Another Democratic Party lawmaker, Na Pyong-son, said that the government was believed to have paid 5.5 million dollars to a trader who had not played any significant role in the military's purchase of the medium-sized transport plane the CH-47D.

Defense Minister Interviewed on Army Reform

SK0110145293 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1216 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Interview with Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae by KBS anchorman Yi Yun-song on 1 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Yi] It is Armed Forces Day today. In what direction is the reform of the Army going?

[Kwon] The Army is making inspections to eradicate irregularities. Inspections and eradication of irregularities, however, are not the only goals of Army reform. We attach importance to solving organizational and systemic problems, to increasing servicemen's welfare, and particularly, to developing men of ability in the Army's long-term development plan, looking ahead into the future as far as the 21st century and thereafter.

[Yi] Many people still have suspicions over irregularities concerning the Yulgok project. The project needs to be more transparent. What do you think about this?

[Kwon] We will make efforts and learn from various advice we recently received. In particular, for an effective execution of the project, I plan to prepare by the end of the year a systematic device that simplifies the procedure of the project and holds the Army personnel responsible for the procedure and their decisions.

[Yi] What is your plan for the future management of Army personnel?

[Kwon] Private emotions from regionalism, school relations, and kinship, should be rejected in personnel management. When we get rid of the old incorrect practice, involvement of private relationship in personnel management, I do not think there will be a problem in personnel management.

[Yi] In view of its nuclear issue and long-range missile development, North Korea is certainly running counter to dialogue. However, our defense budget is decreasing. Do you think this is wise?

[Kwon] It is certain that the national defense budget is decreasing. We are now studying how to use effectively the small defense budget. In particular, we are taking an overall review of the old plan for increasing combat strength. We will decide on new priorities and scales of each project.

[Yi] Again I congratulate you on the Armed Forces Day. Thank you.

Defense Minister on Military's Function

SK0210054893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 2 Oct 93

[By reporter Kim Yong-tae from the National Defense Ministry]

[Text] In a special statement issued on the morning of 2 October, National Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae gave four tasks to the military: establish the identity of the military as that of the people, construct a just military, establish a strong historical consciousness, and attain a self-reliant defense position. He said that the members of the military will exert utmost efforts to realize them.

In the special statement, Minister Kwon said that the military is reflecting on its past, which at one time deviated from its original function. He said that it is inevitable for the military to be reborn as a military body loyal to the people. He emphasized that he will not tolerate the military taking part in politics, as it did in the past, or being used politically.

Minister Kwon continued to say that the people are requesting the military to be loyal only to its original duties, therefore, the military will continue to make efforts to be reborn as a military of the people.

Minister Kwon said that in the past, the military's function was distorted because of regionalism, school contacts, or by special interests groups, thus bringing about mutual distrust and disrespect. He revealed that by no means will he tolerate the forming of private organizations in the military.

Minister Kwon demanded from the military cadres that they have a sound historical consciousness. He emphasized that the military must establish a self-reliant defense position that guarantees the nation's self-esteem and prosperity.

Lieutenant generals and other high-ranking military officials of the Army, Navy, and Air Force were present when Minister Kwon made his special statement. This showed the military's united will to be reborn as a military of the people.

Economic Planning Board Expected To Survive

SK0410062793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 4 (YONHAP)—The Economic Planning Board (EPB), which has long been regarded as the No. 1 target of President Kim Yong-sam's small government plan, is expected to survive, a senior EPB official said Monday.

Chongwadae [presidential offices] has assured a top EPB official that the EPB will not be dismantled under the administrative reforms, the official said.

While it is certain the EPB will survive the small government plan, it is uncertain if some bureaus, including the Performance Evaluation Bureau, will be so fortunate, he added.

It was reported that the EPB would be disbanded, with its budget office moved to Chongwadae and the Fair Trade Commission becoming an independent agency, under the reforms.

The Administrative Reform Committee has reportedly drafted a plan that calls for dismantling the EPB as well as the Science and Technology and the Information Ministries, and down-sizing other ministries through reorganization and integration of overlapping functions.

Senior Officials With 'Problems' To Be Named

SK0410030793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0219 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 4 (YONHAP)—The government, examining the personal assets registered by 709 officials of grade one and above, will single out 60 to 70 who have "problems" with the way in which they accumulated their wealth in the announcement of examination results to be made on Monday afternoon.

Included in the problem officials are 30 who will be told to give up their jobs. Officials said. Those who resist will be dismissed.

The remaining 30 to 40 officials will be retained in their positions with only a warning.

The announcement will include only the exact number of problem officials, and a list of the names will be sent to ministries for ministers to take action against them.

No minister or vice minister, nor the head of any government-invested company, is among the officials who will be asked to leave office, the officials said.

The ministry with the largest number of problem officials to be asked to voluntarily resign is the Foreign Ministry. But since they include those currently on overseas assignment, they will not be forced to resign now. Action will be taken in November when the government carries out a regular reshuffle of diplomats.

Included in the officials subject to a warning are two to three vice minister-level officials and some 10 officials of government-invested companies.

Officials of the Agency for National Security Planning and the Board of Audit and Inspection will not be included in the examination result announcement because they are independent agencies under the Constitution. They will independently deal with their problem officials, the officials said.

First 1993 Trade Surplus Achieved in Sep

SK0410031293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea posted a trade surplus of 233 million U.S. dollars in September on a customs clearance basis as exports exceeded imports for the first time this year, the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry said Monday.

Exports hit 7.25 billion dollars, up 9.5 percent from the same month a year earlier, while imports reached 7.02 billion dollars, up 14.6 percent.

The surplus came because exports of heavy chemical products rose more than 10 percent on the strength of the Japanese yen and exports of textile, leather and some other light-industry products increased around 15 percent.

January-September exports are 59.42 billion dollars, up 6.4 percent, and imports 62.08 billion dollars, up 1.3 percent, for a 2.65 billion-dollar deficit for the first three quarters.

The trade surplus is expected to continue in October, but it remains unclear whether the nation will achieve the export goal of 83.5 billion dollars for the year in view of the slower-than-expected export growth, Ministry officials said.

Exports will have to increase 14 percent each month of the final quarter for the goal to be reached, they said.

Arrivals of letters of credit (L/C) hit 3.78 billion dollars in September, up 9.8 percent, and import approvals reached 4.51 billion dollars, up 16.8 percent.

Burma

Khin Nyunt Meets Kachin Leaders in Myitkyina

BK0310124993 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], accompanied by Lt. Gen. Kyaw Ba, minister of hotels and tourism; Lt. Gen. Maung Thint, minister of development of border areas and national races; Lt. Gen. Kyaw Min, minister of mines; Vice Admiral Than Nyunt, minister of health; Lt. Gen. Thein Win, minister of transport; Brigadier General Myo Thant, minister of information; Cooperatives Minister U Than Aung; Lieutenant Colonel Pe Nyein, director general of the Office of the SLORC; director generals and managing directors from the respective departments and enterprises; and responsible personnel, left Yangon [Rangoon] on a Defense Services airplane on the morning of 1 October and arrived in Myitkyina, Kachin State at 1030 in the morning.

The secretary-1, ministers, and delegates were welcomed in Myitkyina by Major General Saw Lwin, chairman of the Kachin State Law and Order Restoration Council [KSLORC] and commander of the Northern Military Command [NMC]; Maj. Gen. Aye Kyaw, chairman of the Northern Shan State Law and Order Restoration Council [NSSLORC] and commander of the Northeast Military Command; Brig. Gen. Soe Nyunt, commander of the Myitkyina Air Base; and military and civil officials.

The secretary-1, ministers, and delegates proceeded to the NMC's Malikha House, where they were greeted and welcomed by the leaders of the national races. At Malikha House, Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the SLORC, met with Kachin leaders—U Zaw Maing, U Lamon Tu Gyaing, U Zaw Phan, Dr. Laja, and Dr. Tuja—and held discussions and coordinated on regional development activities in Kachin State. The meeting was also attended by members of the SLORC; cabinet ministers; Maj. Gen. Saw Lwin, chairman of the KSLORC and commander of the NMC; Maj. Gen. Aye Kyaw, chairman of the NSSLORC and commander of the Northeast Military Command; and responsible personnel.

[Begin recording] [Khin Nyunt, in progress] ...we will solve problems in our own way, among the brothers. At last, it [not further specified] was accomplished because of our determination to try and resolve the misunderstandings, until they are understood.

[U Zaw Maing] The other day, I mentioned to Maj. Gen. Saw Lwin during a discussion that it would be like hiring a third party to look after my family if we asked that person to resolve a domestic problem. Actually, it was not a discussion, it was just a casual conservation. I told them to think carefully whether this [not further specified]—a trivial matter—was instigated by some people or happened on its own. It is a hurdle between the brothers. It is a problem between family members, and I also told them it is not right to call in a third party. I also mentioned a lot about this matter during the discussions with them. I expressed my view to the major general [Saw Lwin], and he said: Yes, you are right. I believed I was right. This thing happened here. It would be like asking that third party: Hey! Come and govern it. Take it. It is not right.

[Khin Nyunt] Our objective is to negotiate until an agreement is reached. That is why we have reached this stage. Now, U Zaw Maing's latest stance and belief are the same as ours. It has become successful because two people with the same objectives met each other.

[Unidentified Kachin leader] We were in suspense. [laughs] It was because of the goodwill on both sides...

[Khin Nyunt, interrupting] It is an agreement of beliefs.

[Kachin leader] Yes. We said from the very beginning, while we were asking permission from [word indistinct] and approaching them [U Zaw Maing's group], that both sides should talk. This is because in your three national objectives, it says non-disintegration of the union, and our side says we will accept federalism; it says non-disintegration of national solidarity, and our side says the establishment of national solidarity. They are put slightly different but...

[Khin Nyunt, interrupting] They have the same meaning.

[Kachin leader] They are the same. That is why we requested talks. Now, after the discussions, it will come to the stage of a breakthrough [a-kaung a-hte paw la met a-paing ko yauk-la taw me]. We are very happy. We admire both sides' goodwill for the sake of the nation. We are not doing it for our own interests. Our leaders and elders always say that this kind of opportunity will never come again under the SLORC government. This kind of opportunity is difficult to come by. We will regret it later if we do not take this opportunity. [end recording] [passage omitted—Khin Nyunt shown taking pictures with Kachin leaders after the discussions and inspecting development activities]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Addresses UN, Urges Restructuring

BK0210054893 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0428 GMT 2 Oct 93

[By Salmy Hashim]

[Text] United Nations, Oct.2 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The veto must go, Malaysian Prime Minister Dr.

Mahathir Mohamed declared Friday and he called for a restructuring of the United Nations, especially membership in the Security Council. We talk of democracy and yet, the most undemocratic aspect of the UN is the veto power of the Permanent Five, he said when addressing the 48th session of the UN General Assembly here.

He added: We can accept some weightage for them but, for each of them, alone, to be more powerful than the whole membership of the UN is not acceptable; not before, not now and not for the future. There can be, for the time being, some permanent members. But the veto must go. A formula must be found for new permanent members of the Security Council.

Dr. Mahathir's half-hour long address was received by two long rounds of applause from delegates and the general public. Several delegates, including from Australia, offered their congratulations to the prime minister following the address.

Later, at a press conference for Malaysian journalists, Dr. Mahathir said a few of the delegates even said thank you for expressing their convictions.

He added: So, they're quite happy if somebody is prepared to say it... They feel threatened... The powerful countries can twist their arms and cause some pain. I'm prepared to stick my neck out and get it chopped.

Dr. Mahathir said any country wishing to be a permanent member or were already a member must have an interest in all problems of the world.

If you're on the Security Council, you must be interested in everything... You can't say Bosnia is not my problem... Cambodia is my problem; that is not good enough, he added.

In his speech, the prime minister talked about the debit side of the peace dividend and the collapse of the evil empire. He gave a heart-rending account of the cruelties committed by the Serbs which defy imagination—that of a six-year-old Bosnian child who was repeatedly raped in front of her mother who not only had to watch but was prevented from giving any help until the little girl died following two days of exposure.

The evil empire is no more, he said, but the price in human lives and displacement of people was very high as seen in the bloody chaos in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldavia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and many more. He added that while the Slovenes and the Croats enjoyed the full support of the Europeans, the Bosnian Muslims were prevented from defending themselves by the champions of freedom and democracy. When we add up, the peace dividends accruing from the ending of the Cold War have not really been substantial, he said. But he highlighted the two significant items on the credit side,—the recent signing of the peace agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel and that between the blacks and whites in South Africa.

I would like to congratulate all parties concerned for their good sense and boldness, he said but cautioned about obstacles ahead before true peace becomes permanent. They've overcome the most crucial obstacles but (there is) no guarantee that we'll see peace, he told reporters.

Military Contingent Leaves for Bosnia 30 Sep

BK3009091993 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0748 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept 30 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The second contingent of Malaysian Battalion (Malbatt) left for Bosnia Thursday to serve under the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The 181 soldiers from the Third Royal Armoured Regiment and 11 journalists left in a Boeing 747.

The contingent will be based in Bihac, southern Zagreb [as heard] for one year, while the journalists are expected back next week.

The soldiers, part of the 1,489-strong Malaysian contingent, will initially be assigned to Bihac and from there probably to Mostar or Sarajevo.

The troops are expected to remain in Bosnia for between six months and a year.

Leaders Greet Counterparts on PRC National Day

BK0110050193 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0333 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 1 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Malaysian king, Sultan Azlan Shah, has sent greetings to President Jiang Zemin on the occasion of the 44th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China Friday.

In his message, the king conveyed his warmest felicitations and best wishes for Jiang's continued good health and personal wellbeing.

The king also expressed the hope that the existing cordial and close cooperation between Malaysia and China would continue to be enhanced in the years ahead.

Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, in a similar message to his Chinese counterpart Li Peng, recalled his recent visit to China.

He said he was glad to note that under your pragmatic leadership, the Chinese people are enjoying great social and economic progress and prosperity.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in his message to China's foreign affairs minister, Qian Qichen, expressed confidence that the existing close (?relations between) Malaysia and China would be further enhanced and consolidated in the future.

Singapore President Arrives on 'Unofficial Visit'

BK0110080893 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0710 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 1 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Singapore President Ong Teng Cheong was received by the Malaysian king Sultan Azlan Shah at national palace, here soon after his arrival here for a two-day unofficial visit to Malaysia.

President Ong making his first to Malaysia since his election on Sept 1 spent 30 minutes with the king.

The president was accompanied by Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Information and Arts Brig-Gen. [Brigadier General] George Yeoh and the Singapore High Commissioner to Malaysia Low Choon Ming.

600 Members of United Sabah Party Join UMNO

BK3010144493 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 28 Sep 93 p 2

[Text] Kota Kinabalu, Mon—The brother of senior leader of Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) [United Sabah Party] today led 600 party members from the Limbawang parliamentary constituency in joining UMNO [United Malays National Organization].

Abdullah Haji Okin, brother of the Assistant Minister to Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan, Datuk Lajim, and 30 others met Minister of Sabah Affairs, Tun Datu Mustapha Harun, at the UMNO liaison office here to state their intention to join UMNO.

Abdullah, 33, said their decision was based on the belief that only UMNO and the Barisan Nasional (BN) could provide a credible leadership to champion the people of Sabah and develop the state.

He advised PBS members to think rationally when deciding on their future.

"The people of Sabah should accept the fact that only a government with a vision should be given the mandate to administer the state," he said.

Government Reports Reduced Trade Surplus

BK0110020293 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Malaysia continued to achieve a favorable trade balance, with a surplus of 272 million ringgit in June this year. The Statistics Department said even though it was the 14th consecutive month to see a surplus since May 1992, the surplus was 182.2 million ringgit, or 40 percent lower than the figure registered in May this year. The smallest surplus in the (?five) months was the result of lower growth in exports vis-a-vis the growth in imports.

Singapore

Joint Armor Exercise With Brunei Ends 30 Sep

BK0110100593 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Oct 93 p 29

[Excerpt] Troops from the armed forces of Singapore and Brunei combined to flush out and destroy "enemy" positions using "live" ammunition and bombs yesterday. The three-hour assault mission was the climax of a four-day joint armour exercise, codenamed Bold Sabre. The exercise, which ended yesterday, was the second in the annual Bold Sabre series between the two armies. It was started in July last year.

The exercise came to a close with troops from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Armour Reconnaissance Squadron and Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) 40th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment, carrying out the attack in the Safti live firing area. The RBAF troops were integrated into the SAF battalion for the series of live firing assaults. The SAF's AMX-13 SM1 tanks, M-113 personnel carriers, 120mm mortars and anti-tank weapons were used by the assault troops.

Super Skyhawks from the Republic of Singapore Air Force were also involved. They bombed the enemy position to "soften" the targets before the assault by the ground troops. [passage omitted]

Minister for Trade, Industry, Labor Appointed

BK0110091693 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Oct 93 p 1

[Excerpt] Mr Goh Chee Wee, acting secretary general of NTUC [National Trades Union Congress], has been appointed Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Labour from 11 October. Announcing this yesterday, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said he will return to the National Trades Union Congress at a later date. Mr Goh, 46, will assume his government post on the day Mr Lim Boon Heng relinquishes his ministerial responsibilities to return to NTUC as secretary-general. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Hun Sen Says To Call KR 'Group' Not 'Faction'

BK0410141193 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 3 Oct 93

["Report on the Royal National Government of Cambodia Delegation's Activities at the United Nations"]

[Text] At the invitation of the ASEAN foreign ministers, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, respectively first and second prime ministers of the Royal National Government of Cambodia [RNGC], and entourage attended a working meeting held at the (?Regent Plaza) on the morning of 2 October 1993 at 0900 local time or 2000 Phnom Penh time. Taking the floor, H.E. Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister and dean of the ASEAN diplomatic corps, thanked the RNGC delegation for accepting the invitation and participating in the meeting to exchange information, thus making the ASEAN states aware of the most effective ways to assist Cambodia.

In his reply, Prince Kromluong spoke about the current political developments in Cambodia, where a democratic constitution has been adopted by a parliament that was born of the people's genuine aspirations and where the monarchy has been restored in accordance with the desire of all the political parties represented by their members in Parliament. The prince also thanked ASEAN for its efforts in ending the war in Cambodia, creating an initial step for the achievement of national reconciliation and reunification.

On the RNGC formation, the prince first prime minister underlined that agreement on some ministries has already been reached and that the cabinet lineup will be completed soon. However, the parliamentary chairmanship is still being discussed. The prince said he hoped that ASEAN would continue with its positive and active role in achieving genuine peace in Cambodia.

As for the continuation of the United Nations' mandate after the completion of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] mission, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh said the RNGC has agreed on the establishment of a joint coordinating office in the Kingdom of Cambodia to coordinate the work of all UN institutions currently active in the country. However, to avoid misunderstanding, he added, an Asian should be appointed as the bureau chief representing the UN secretary general. As for UN observers, he continued, their number should be reduced and they should carry out their work only within the UN framework, not to the advantage of their respective countries.

Commenting on economic aid to Cambodia, Prince Kromluong said the framework of the conference on the rehabilitation of Cambodia should be maintained for the time being, but the active roles of the World Bank and the IMF should in no way be discarded.

For his part, H.E. Hun Sen, second prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, said where the RNGC's priority is to maintain political and social stability, the structure of the international conference on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia should remain flexible, concrete, and alive to meet the needs of the country.

On the Khmer Rouge issue, H.E. Hun Sen stressed that when the country and nation have already been endowed with a king, a constitution, and a government as such, one should not continue to talk about this or that party or refer to it as a faction. As for the so-called roundtable meeting to be held soon, he added that it is only a meeting between the RNGC and a Cambodian group headed by Khieu Samphan. Concerning foreign countries' roles, the second prime minister said the Kingdom of Cambodia does not only want to see any foreign country interfering in Cambodia's internal affairs, but rather the maintenance of their same neutral stance toward the legal government and the outlaws.

H.E. Ali Alatas, on behalf of the ASEAN foreign ministers, thanked Prince Kromluong and H.E. Hun Sen for their information about political developments in Cambodia and the RNGC's position on key issues. His Excellency reaffirmed the ASEAN states' support for the call on UNTAC to relinquish its equipment to the RNGC.

The meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of cordiality, concluded at 1030.

At 1600 on the same day, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and H.E. Hun Sen met with PRC Foreign Minister H.E. Qian Qichen to exchange information on both countries. The excellency the Chinese foreign minister has made known of his support for the political developments in Cambodia, especially the adoption of the Constitution, the reinstallation of the monarchy, and the present governmental structure.

Ranariddh, Hun Sen Reply to Khieu Samphan

BK0110124593 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 1 Oct 93

["Letter from the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia to His Excellency Khieu Samphan"; dated 30 September—read by announcer]

[Text] We have received a note on Your Excellency's five-point idea sent through His Excellency (Khieu Rada) [not further identified]. We would like to thank Your Excellency for these opinions.

We are honored to inform Your Excellency of our views concerning our roundtable discussion.

For the sake of seeking the permanent peace, stability, and security for our country—the most important conditions for restoring and rebuilding Cambodia so that it can keep pace with civilized countries—we regard the roundtable discussion as a very important matter. However, we are of the opinion that before this discussion is held, your group should:

1. Announce its recognition of the Constitution that was solemnly adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 21 September; its promulgation was signed by His Majecty King Norodom Sihanouk of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

2. Announce its recognition of the legitimate Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia (?set up) by the king, the first and second prime ministers, and their cabinet, which will soon seek a vote of confidence from the National Assembly.

3. Accept that this roundtable discussion is the discussion between the heads of the legitimate royal government and your group under the august chairmanship of the king. That is, it is not a negotiation between parties.

At the same time, we are convinced that Your Excellency will not raise the same old propaganda concerning the Vietnamese or Vietnamese puppet regime, and your group's radio must also stop broadcasts made up of phrases meant to incite discord, enmity, and dispute, which run totally against the spirit of national reconciliation and great national union. This is because our present beloved motherland is led only by a legitimate government with an outstanding king reigning as the king of Cambodia, and our people are proud to be an independent and sovereign people and are looking forward to seeing the light of full peace and happiness within the near future.

We would like to stress to Your Excellency that the possibility to hold our discussion depends on the attitude that your group should adopt concerning the matters that we mentioned above.

They are not preconditions but are principles that a legitimate government must regard as the duty that it must fulfill for the nation and people who are the voters.

Please accept our highest regards.

[Dated] 30 September
[Signed] First Prime Minister Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh;

Second Prime Minister His Excellency Hun Sen

Reportage on Reconciliation With Khmer Rouge

Sihanouk Plans Intermediary Role

BK0210053493 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Khieu Samphan, leader of Democratic Kampuchea/Khmer Rouge, on the afternoon of 1 October went to the Royal Palace to congratulate His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk and his royal wife, who have just been enthroned as king and queen of the Kingdom of Cambodia. At the audience, the king said he warmly welcomed Khieu Samphan and his aides and conferred on them the rights of access to the palace in order to discuss ways to quickly reach national reconciliation and reunification with the objective of jointly rehabilitating and rebuilding the nation and country toward prosperity. The king reaffirmed that in spite of difficulties, his national reconciliation policy remained unchanged, saying that at this juncture, the king is especially important for achieving national reconciliation. He stressed that he always remained neutral and that he would act as an intermediary between the Royal National Government of Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge at a roundtable meeting scheduled for November.

Khmer Rouge Radio on Meeting

BK0210015093 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Upon his arrival at Pochentong Airport on the afternoon of 1 October, His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, made a statement to the press, saying: I come here to congratulate the king, express our support for the monarchy with King Norodom Sihanouk as monarch of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and voice our endorsement of the new Constitution. We, the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, like the entire Cambodian nation and people, want everyone to respect and implement the new Constitution, especially Articles 1, 2, and 52.

H.E. Khieu Samphan's trip to Phnom Penh was to see King Norodom Sihanouk. The king ordered their excellencies (Chhem Hai) and (Si Nathan) to go to the airport to welcome H.E. Khieu Samphan, who was received by the king in an audience at 1800 on 1 October.

Communique on Meeting

BK0310023293 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in English 0100 GMT 3 Oct 93

["Communique issued by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea Office in Phnom Penh on 2 October"]

[Text] I. On 1 October 1993 late in the afternoon, his majesty the king, Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, and Her Majesty the Queen graciously received in audience His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, president of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK].

II. His Majesty the King has given H.E. Khieu Samphan permission to inform the national and international public of his majesty's views as follows:

A. In November, the roundtable must be convened. [Words indistinct], it is preferable to foresee the war when H.E. Hun Sen and His Royal Highness Prince Kromluong cannot agree for the roundtable. Even if various conditions cannot be fulfilled, the dialogue should not be interrupted. In that case, His Majesty the King will try to bridge the gap and conduct shuttle diplomacy in order to study issues raised by various parties, such as the cease-fire, the role of the PDK representatives within the administration, the integration of all Armed Forces into the Royal Army, and so forth. All these issues will have to be discussed in November after the Independence Day celebration. His Majesty the King believes that by so doing, progress can be made and we can arrive at 20, 30, or 40 percent of the solution. Some could perhaps criticize His Majesty the King (?for putting) the two parties on equal footing. This is not true. His Majesty the King is the father of the nation and every Cambodian is his son or daughter. He cannot apply pressure on either side. In so doing, it is in strict conformity with the Constitution.

B. His Majesty the King remains neutral and abides by the policy of national reconciliation. He will do his utmost to unify, not divide. The king is the nation.

C. Your Excellency can continue to stay in the compound you have now in Phnom Penh so that we can be forever united. Our nation should not be divided. We must remain as Khmers in our big family. Even those [words indistinct], Your Excellency and the PDK can come in or go out of the royal capital city of Phnom Penh at any time so as to maintain dialogue. Your Excellency would do so by considering Phnom Penh as the royal capital city of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

His Majesty the King has put the palace at the disposal of Your Excellency and the PDK. This is of high and far-reaching significance and we will continue our dialogue. The PDK has its own official headquarters in Phnom Penh. The royal capital city of Phnom Penh belongs to each and every Cambodian.

III. H.E. Khieu Samphan expressed his deep gratitude to their majesties the king and the queen for the audience. On behalf of the PDK and with the permission of His Majesty the King, H.E. Khieu Samphan has expressed best wishes for longevity to their majesties the king and the queen.

IV. H.E. Khieu Samphan also respectfully informs His Majesty the King that the PDK is pleased to see the monarchy restored with His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk as the king and fully supports the new Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The PDK would like to see the new Constitution be fully respected and implemented in its spirit and letter, particularly Articles 1, 2, and 52.

V. As for the forthcoming roundtable dialogue, H.E. Khieu Samphan said that the PDK would not depart from the two-point proposal already submitted for His Majesty's consideration.

A. The formation of a national army, including the NADK [National Army of Democratic Kampuchea]; and

B. The PDK representatives will have advisory roles. The PDK will not ask for more and will not seek governmental posts.

VI. The audience proceeded in a cordial, warm, and optimistic atmosphere. H.E. Khieu Samphan would like to seek this opportunity to express his warmest thanks to all dignitaries and compatriots for their cordial welcome during his stay in the royal capital city of Phnom Penh.

Khmer Rouge Spokesman Cited

BK0410013493 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Statement by Party of Democratic Kampuchea spokesman issued on 2 October; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] I. The Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], like the entire Cambodian nation and people, eagerly need and want national reconciliation so as to restore peace, independence, national unity, territorial integrity, and to rebuild the country and make it as prosperous as during the Sangkum Reas Niyum [pre-1970 ruling party led by Sihanouk] time and the Angkor era in conformity with the appeal and advice of His Majesty the King and the new Constitution, which belongs to all of us.

II. The DKP holds that genuine national reconciliation cannot be achieved as long as one party continues to be in absolute power, both civilian and military, from top to bottom. If that situation were to continue, that party would pressure others to be subservient to it and therefore trample upon the law and the Constitution. This state of affairs is not only unjust but also very dangerous to democracy, freedom, and particularly the future destiny of Cambodia. Concretely, if that party is not pleased or if it wants something, it just stages a coup d'etat or threatens others at will. This will be more likely as it has foreigners behind it.

III. To achieve genuine national reconciliation, there must be a balance of forces and political equilibrium. Therefore, there should be compromise to achieve a balance of forces and political equilibrium. If one party has no forces at all or not enough forces while the other maintains all categories of its forces, especially its overwhelming military forces, national reconciliation cannot be realized and peace, independence, and sovereignty cannot be restored and there is not chance for the reconstruction of the country.

IV. If national reconciliation is admitted by all to be necessary in accordance with Article 52 of the Constitution and the sacred wishes of all Cambodian people, there must be no condition or obstacle raised that would hinder or delay the achievement of national reconciliation. To raise such and such conditions, whether voluntarily or not, opposes the national reconciliation, peace, independence, national unity, and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia, is against the monarchy and the king, and is to sap the Constitution.

V. As far as as the cease-fire is concerned, the PDK has, time and again, stressed its position that it fervently wants it, for it is not the PDK who wants war but it is the Communist Vietnamese who have rekindled the war in Cambodia. At present, it is the Communist Vietnamese and their alliance who are continuing the war. The PDK wants to have a real cease-fire. To achieve this, there should be a committee to discuss detailed plans of the cease-fire and the principles of its control and verification. If not, the proclamation of the cease-fire is merely a deceitful attempt that will not bring about neither cease-fire, peace, nor national reconciliation.

[Dated] 2 October 1993

Sihanouk Departs for Medical Treatment in China

BK0410063293 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] At 1000 on 4 October, His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, king of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and his royal wife Norodom Monique Sihanouk left the royal capital city of Phnom Penh aboard a special Korean plane for the PRC for further medical treatments there. The treatments have been postponed since his return to the motherland on 23 September 1993 to sign and promulgate the new Constitution and to ascend the throne of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

At Pochentong Airport, bidding farewell to the king were His Excellency [H.E.] Samdech Son Sann, H.E. Chea Sim, and H.E. Ing Kiet, respectively chairman, first vice chairman, and second vice chairman of the Parliament; H.E. Keat Chhon, deputy prime minister, as well as the other members of the Royal National Government of Cambodia and several diplomats accredited to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Sihanouk Remarks on Departure

BK0410054293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0449 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Oct 4 (AFP)—Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk left here for China on Monday saying the Khmer Rouge would become advisors to the new government following talks next month.

"They will be advisors," he said as he boarded his special Air Koryo jet, put at his disposal by the North Korean government, which flew him to Beijing to continue medical treatment for a prostate tumor.

"There will be discussions between the Royal government and the Khmer Rouge in November. In November you will know the result," the king said.

The king had spent 10 days in Cambodia, where he ratified the country's new constitution reinstating him as a ruling monarch, and received credentials from foreign envoys upgrading their missions to embassies. He also had talks with Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan on Friday.

Khieu Samphan said he recognized the new Cambodian constitution but not the government. But he offered to integrate his guerrillas into the national army in exchange for the advisory role and the establishment of a commission to monitor a ceasefire, Khmer Rouge officials said. The details are to be worked out in the round-table discussions in November.

Cambodian leaders, however, cast doubt on the talks by laying down conditions under which they could be held, including recognition of the government by the Khmer Rouge and their cessation of inflamatory anti-government broadcasts on their clandestine radio.

King Sihanouk is due to return here in late October for his birthday celebrations on the 31st, to preside over festivities on November 9 to mark the independence from the French, and chair the round-table talks.

Indonesia

Intelligence Chief: U.S. Not Involved in Spying

BK0110120593 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1052 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Jakarta, Oct 1 (OANA-ANTARA)—Head of the Intelligence Coordination Body (Bakin) Sudibyo has denied that the United States of America was involved in spying and said their activities here were merely confined to diplomatic services.

Answering press questions after attending a workshop on politics and security here Thursday, Sudibyo said that several members of congress had joined the US Generalized System of Preferences team in Indonesia to check the country's labour conditions.

Earlier, Bhaskara Jaya/Surabaya Military Resort Commander Colonel Sutarto said there were indications that the congressmen were also involved in intelligence activities.

"The commander has sent in a report to say the claims were groundless", Sudibyo said to newsmen, stressing again that there had been no intelligence work involved but the usual diplomatic line of duties.

When told that Australian reports were quite occupied with the matter, he replied that it was "normal practice" for the foreign press. "In fact, there is nothing to worry about", Sudibyo added.

Burmese Trade Minister Holds Talks in Jakarta

Trade Agreement Concluded

BK2909150793 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] The Indonesian and Myanmar [Burmese] Governments have agreed to boost bilateral trade in the form of countertrade with Myanmar offering corn and soybean while Indonesia will offer fertilizer. This is the outcome of talks between Ibrahim Hassan, state minister for foods affairs and concurrently head of the Logistics Board, and Myanmar Trade Minister Lieutenant General Tun Kyi in Jakarta today. During the talks, Ibrahim Hassan admitted that Indonesia still needs corn and soybean while Myanmar needs fertilizer each year. As the two countries are on friendly terms, they will supplement each other's needs through the countertrade system.

Burmese Minister Invites Investment

BK3009064693 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Burmese Trade Minister Tun Kyi hopes for economic and technical cooperation with Indonesia. Trade Minister Tun Kyi said this after calling on President Suharto at the latter's residence on Cendana Street in Jakarta today. The minister said Burma needs Indonesian industrial products and raw materials. He called on Indonesian businessmen to invest in his country to develop various industries, including agribusiness.

Support for Palestinian Cause To Continue

BK2910135993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Together with the member countries of the Nonaligned Movement's Committee IX, Indonesia is determined to continue supporting Palestine in its efforts to establish a self-rule government in the framework of implementing the PLO-Israel peace accord. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said this after a meeting of foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement's Committee IX countries at the UN headquarters in New York.

Alatas, who chaired the ministerial meeting on Palestine, went on to say that several stages of the PLO-Israel accord may still face obstacles. Therefore, Indonesia and member countries of Committee IX are determined to monitor implementation of the accord. The Committee IX members also agreed that the United Nations will play an important role in implementing the peace accord and in the reconstruction of Palestine because this world body has always helped find a fair and comprehensive solution to many international problems.

Tunisia Agrees To Increase Economic Relations

BK0110121393 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1101 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] London, Oct 1 (OANA-ANTARA)—Investment Minister Sanyoto Sastrowardoyo said the Tunisian Government has agreed to increase economic, trade and investment relations as a step towards establishing South-South cooperation.

Speaking to ANTARA on arrival from the capital Tunis here Thursday, the minister said the North African country required from Indonesia commodities like textiles, garments, electronic products, tires and spices.

During his three-day visit, Sanyoto held talks with Tunisian Economic Minister Sadok Rabah, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Mohamed Jegham and Deputy Minister of International Cooperation and Overseas Investment Salah Brik Hanachi.

Sanyoto said the Tunisian Government wished to maintain direct trade with Indonesia, as opposed to the current practice through third parties, and promised his hosts that a trade delegation would visit their country soon.

He rated Tunisia's tourism sector as most satisfying with its target of 4 million visitors this year compared to Indonesia's 3 million.

According to Sanyoto, Indonesia could learn from Tunisia's strategy in drawing the numbers considering that the country's tourist attractions were more limited than Indonesia.

Speaking on investments, he said Pacific Textile of the Indonesian Texmaco Group has invested US$4.6 million to serve not only the Tunisian market but also Europe, because textile products from there were not subjected to the European Community set quotas and exempted from import duties if 40 percent of the materials used were local.

Laos

Foreign Minister Leaves for Japan, U.S.

BK3009133593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 29 September, His Excellency [H.E.] Somsavat Lengsavat, minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], leading a delegation of the LPDR Government, left Vientiane to participate in the 48th United Nations General Assembly in New York.

On route to attend the UN meeting, H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat and his delegation will pay a working visit to Japan and the United States.

While in Japan, the Lao delegation will hold consultations with high-ranking officials of Japan's Foreign Ministry on issues concerning bilateral relations and cooperation, as well as regional and other issues of mutual interest. In addition, the Lao delegation will meet with officials of various economic organizations, such as the overseas economic cooperation fund and the Japanese economic federation.

After Japan, the LPDR Government delegation will further travel to the United States to meet with high-ranking U.S. officials in Hawaii and Washington. A number of documents relating to bilateral cooperation will be signed during this period.

Seeing off the Lao delegation at Viantiane's international airport were H.E. Phongsavat Boupha, deputy minister of foreign affairs and a number of high-ranking officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

(Toshikazu Ayuyama), charge d'affaires of the Japanese Embassy in Laos, and (James Dickinson), charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Laos, were also on hand at the airport to see the delegation off.

U.S. Company To Mine Gold in Luang Prabang

BK0210122193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Beginning in October this year, the U.S. Lotus Company Limited will begin exploring and mining for gold in Pha Houn, Pak Ou District, Luang Prabang Province where it has been granted a mining concession in an area of 100 square kilometers. However, the actual exploration will be conducted only on about (?10) square kilometers. Initial investment for the operation is estimated to be U.S. $3.9 million. The company has received a concession from the Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts to carry out gold exploration in the area from 1 April 1993 to 1 April 2013—a period of 20 years. Exploration alone will be carried out for five consecutive years. The company will also help Laos build an all-season road and a comprehensive primary school in the Pha Houn area and recruit local residents in six villages in the vicinity as a mining crew and workers.

Prime Minister Greets Cambodian Counterparts

BK0210090393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] On 30 September, His Excellency [H.E.] Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], sent a greetings message to Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and H.E. Hun Sen, respectively first and second prime ministers of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In the message, H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, on behalf of the LPDR Government and in his own name, expressed congratulations and best wishes to Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and H.E. Hun Sen on their appointments respectively as first and second prime ministers of the Kingdom of Cambodia. He also highly assessed that the endorsement of the new Constitution by the Cambodian National Assembly and the establishment of the Kingdom of Cambodia with Prince Norodom Sihanouk as king reflect the aspirations of the Cambodian people. He noted: The endorsement of the Constitution and the establishment of the Kingdom of Cambodia mark a success for the Cambodian people in their march forward to achieve genuine national concord.

He added: I am convinced that the traditional, longstanding relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the LPDR and the Kingdom of Cambodia will be further promoted and expanded and will bring about concrete benefits to the peoples of Laos and Cambodia. On this glorious occasion, I wish both of you, prime ministers, good health and success in your noble cause.

Border Talks Held With Thai Province Delegation

BK2909145193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Local border peacekeeping cooperation committees of Laos' Sayaboury Province and Thailand's Loei Province held a meeting at the administrative office of Sayaboury Province on 25 September. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the ways and means to settle certain problems on cooperation in maintaining tranquility in areas along the common border of the two provinces. The Lao side was headed by Bounheuang Vongphachan, governor of Sayaboury Province and chairman of the Lao-Thai Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee of Sayaboury Province, while the Thai side was headed by Somnuk Sukwichian, governor of Loei Province and chairman of the Thai-Lao Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee of Loei Province.

In the meeting, the two sides reviewed coordination in carrying out peacekeeping work along the border areas connecting Sayaboury and Loei Provinces since signing the memorandum at a meeting between the two sides in June 1993. The two sides assessed that, in general, effective cooperation has been achieved in maintaining tranquility along the common border of the two provinces. They noted, however, that only certain cases, such as cooperation in suppressing those who have created disturbances along the border and cooperation in checking goods smugglers, have not been positively settled. They also pointed out that difficulties still remain in creating favorable conditions for the people as well as businessmen to exchange visits and engage in trading. To settle these remaining problems, the two sides have agreed to further heighten their responsibility with a view to turning the common border of the two provinces into a border of genuine friendship.

In the meeting, the two sides also jointly signed a memorandum on constructing a friendship bridge across the Nam Heuang River as stipulated in the joint statement issued in Vientiane between the Lao and Thai cooperation commissions on 22 September this year.

Bokeo Peacekeeping Delegation Visits PRC

BK3010092393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] A delegation of the Public Security Command of Bokeo Province led by Lieutenant Colonel Chandeng Manivang, chief of the Bokeo provincial public security command, is currently on a working visit to the public security headquarters of the PRC's Xishuang Banna Sub-Province, Yunnan Province.

The purpose of the trip to China by the Lao delegation is to meet their Chinese counterparts and exchange views and lessons with them on issues concerning border peacekeeping—such as the management and control of border entry—the aim of which is to ensure improved efficiency in safeguarding peace and security along the Lao-Chinese border.

The visit is made in response to the invitation of the chief of the public security command of (Xiang Hung) District, Xishuang Banna Sub-Province.

Further Reportage on National Assembly Session

Fourth-Day Proceedings Reported

BK3009142993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Respected listeners, the second ordinary session of the third National Assembly continued for the fourth day today.

National Assembly representatives from various provinces—one after another—expressed their views in reports on the performance of duties and work of the people's courts presented to the meeting by Ket Kiattisak, chairman of the Supreme People's Court; and of the People's Judiciary Institute, presented by Phai Oula, chairman of the People's Judiciary Institute.

In offering comments, each member of the National Assembly discussed the outcome of implementing the Constitution and laws in the past period, lessons to be drawn, favourable factors, weak points, and problems yet to be solved.

The representatives who made remarks today were Saman Souvannasao, representative of Khammouane Province; Maisouk Saisompheng, representative of Houa Phan Province; Phouthon Phetsalat, representative of Savannakhet Province; Brigadier General Saisompheng Souli-gnavong, representative of Xieng Khouang Province; Chaleun Yiapaoheu, chairman of the Secretariat Commission of the National Assembly and representative of Oudomsai; Bounlat Veuaivanitsavong, representative of Champassak; Siho Bannavong, deputy chief of the Commission of Cultural and Social Affairs and representative of Vientiane Municipality; Simmali Phanthamalai, representative of Vientiane Province; Keyoun Gnotsaiviboun, representative of Savannakhet; Colonel Phosai Saipan-gna, representative of Vientiane Municipality; Ms. Vongkham Southammavong, representative of Vientiane Province; Brigadier General Savai Sai-gnasena, representative of Attopeu Province; Khamsai Soulinthon, representative of Vientiane Municipality; Vengthong Louangvilai, representative of Phong Saly Province, and other members of the National Assembly.

Fifth-Day Proceedings Reported

BK0110145393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Today is the fifth day of the second ordinary session of the Third National Assembly. Eighty-five members of the National Assembly attending the session heard a report reviewing the activities of the assembly since its election, including its good and weak points, remaining problems, and immediate solutions. They also heard the Third National Assembly's program of action for 1994 presented by Chaleun Yiapaoheu, member of the National Assembly Standing Committee and chairman of the Secretariat Commission. After that, the delegates proceeded to study, discuss, and expressed views on the report, including Khamliang Phonsena, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission and assembly member from Champassak Province; Boualai Sisomvang, assembly member from Champassak Province; Si Boulommavong, assembly member from Vientiane Municipality; Phakham Vongsai, assembly member from Saravane Province; Somphon Khagnong-ek, assembly member from Champassak Province and vice chairman of the Minorities Commission; and Khamtan Keosai-gnasan, assembly member from Phong Saly Province.

Session Closes With 'Success'

BK0210133393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] The second ordinary session of the 3d National Assembly was concluded with glorious success this afternoon after carrying out work with a sense of urgency for six days from 27 September to 2 October under the chairmanhip of Saman Vi-gnaket, chairman of the National Assembly, and with the attendance of eighty-three members of the National Assembly from many provinces.

Attending the closing ceremony of the second ordinary session of the National Assembly as honored guests were Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC] and prime minister; Nouhak Phoumsavan, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]; members of the LPRP CC; advisors to the LPRP CC; ministers and deputy ministers; representatives of mass organizations at the central level; directors of state-run and private-owned business enterprises; intellectuals; senior revolutionaries; representatives of students and people; and foreign diplomats in Laos.

National Assembly Chairman Saman Vi-gnaket, who also chaired the session, reviewed the various issues discussed. Afterwards, members of the National Assembly from all provinces debated and endorsed the government's report on implementing the 1993 socioeconomic development plan and adopting the 1993-94 state socioeconomic development plan, and discussed and endorsed the orientation of tasks for the 1993-94 fiscal year of the National Assembly. Subsequently, Chaleun Yiapaoheu, member of the National Assembly Standing Committee and chairman of the Secretariat Commission, read a resolution earlier adopted by the session. Saman Vi-gnaket then delivered a speech officially closing the second ordinary session of the National Assembly at 1630.

Saman Vi-gnaket Gives Speech

BK0310143393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Speech by Third National Assembly Chairman Saman Vi-gnaket at the closing of the second ordinary session of the Third National Assembly in Vientiane on 2 October—recorded]

[Text] Today the second ordinary session of the 3d National Assembly, in progress with a sense of urgency and enthusiasm since 27 September 1993, is concluding after brilliant success. Before the official convening of this ordinary session, we held meetings of several National Assembly commissions to discuss the agenda of this ordinary session in accordance with the roles played by each commission. The most important thing at this session was that we had the honor to hear a speech by Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. During the session, National Assembly members, nobly exercising their democratic rights, expressed views and unanimously endorsed various important contents of the session with a sense of holding the political responsibility of the National Assembly aloft, thus enabling our meeting to fulfill the objectives that had been outlined earlier.

The success of the session is also the success of the continued implementation of the party's policy of comprehensive restructuring. It is also the success of the transformation of the orientation of the strategic tasks of our socioeconomic development from now until the year 2000 into detailed plans for each coming year; for example, in (?1993). It is the success of a high degree of unity among all members of the National Assembly, who represent the interests of our multiethnic people of all strata. It marks the virtuous growth and expansion of the 3d National Assembly.

Our meeting heard and discussed the government's report on implementation of the socioeconomic development plan and state budgets for the 1992-93 fiscal year. It assessed that in 1993—though encountering numerous objective and subjective difficulties and shortcomings, such as natural calamities—thanks to the perseverance and determination of the government and of all services and localities, we managed to make satisfactory achievements in various fields. We securely safeguarded our country and brought stability and development to our economy and society, as well as political stability and peace and order to our country.

Aiming at further promoting our good points and the potential of our natural resources, and rectifying the weak points and shortcomings in the past, relying on our actual political capability, the session unanimously agreed to endorse the socioeconomic development plan and state budgets for the 1993-94 fiscal year.

The socioeconomic development plan and state budgets for the 1993-94 fiscal year conform to the actual capabilities and requirements for the socioeconomic development of our country. They reflect the high determination of our government to exploit and utilize the potential of our country and combine them with the consolidated strength of the epoch to raise gradually the living conditions of the multiethnic people and create favorable conditions for us to build further and expand our popular democratic regime.

The meeting reviewed the promulgation of the Constitution and many other laws and discussed reports presented by the chairmen of the Supreme People's Court and the People's Judiciary Institute on the execution of their duties in enforcing laws. The meeting assessed that the Constitution and all laws that have been promulgated and enforced conform to the current situation and the strong aspirations of the multiethnic people. Our people are pleased with the Constitution and other laws that ensure their right to mastership and democratic rights. All organizations entrusted with law enforcement, such as the people's courts, the people's prosecution organizations, and the police and military investigation and interrogation organizations, have now been provided with basic tools to perform their duties more efficiently. All this is a new step in the development of the popular democratic regime as well as a new step toward gradually managing the state with legal apparatuses.

At the same time, the meeting also discussed certain weak points and shortcomings in the implementation of the Constitution and other laws. It stressed the need to educate and instill a sense of responsibility in abiding by the Constitution and all laws in the people as well as all party, state, and mass organizations.

The meeting studied, reviewed, and appraised the good and weak points of the 3d National Assembly in implementing and executing its duties since its formation. The meeting [word indistinct] appraised the (?activities) of the National Assembly in the past seven months, since its formation on 20 February 1993. We began to implement in earnest the duties of the legislative organizations as stipulated in the LPDR Constitution. We did this by concentrating efforts on consolidating, stepping up, and synchronizing their political, ideological, and organizational aspects. We thereby effected numerous important new changes in the concepts and attitudes of the National Assembly members regarding their roles, responsibilities, and methods of working in the new period, and guiding the National Assembly to attain new quality in fulfilling the political tasks entrusted by the party and people.

At the same time, the meeting studied and debated numerous shortcomings that required us to find a solution expeditiously. For example, members of the National Assembly still fail to thoroughly understand their roles, rights, and duties in the new period. The apparatuses of the National Assembly are still not able to respond to the call of their political duties in the new period because of a lack of qualified technical personnel.

At the meeting, members of the National Assembly took the initiative to express their views enthusiastically and frankly on the basis of the legitimate rights of the multiethnic people. They conveyed to the session the views, propositions, and strong aspirations of the people in their respective constituencies for further action by the party, government, and organizations concerned. This created favorable conditions for the meeting to reach unanimity on various issues based on our party policy of restructuring. All this once again reaffirms the new quality of the members of our National Assembly.

Your meeting has thus fulfilled the set objectives. It will, however, take some time for us to translate the success of this meeting into reality. Many steps have to be overcome. It calls for us to strive even harder than before to overcome all difficulties in order to transform the outcome of this meeting into practical popular movements in each locality, and to turn it into goods, food supplies, money, and revenue for our budget so that we will be able to improve the living conditions of our multiethnic people.

To achieve this goal, I propose that all members of the National Assembly further heighten a sense of political responsibility. You must act as the representatives of the people by safeguarding their interests. Let us all popularize the success of the meeting, such as the 1993-94 socioeconomic development plan, among the people in your respective constituencies. Let us mobilize the people to participate in translating this success into reality in all fields.

Philippines

Ramos Expresses Support for Yeltsin 4 Oct

BK0410082493 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0610 GMT 4 Oct 93

[News conference by President Fidel Ramos with domestic and foreign correspondents at Malacanang Palace in Manila; speech in English, italicized passage spoken in Tagalog—live]

[Excerpts] Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. *Why are you getting farther away [from the platform]?* [laughter from the audience] First of all, a statement on the latest developments in Russia. I would like to read this, but we will pass on a copy of this to the press secretary for everybody's information, including the narrative report of our embassy in Moscow.

Developments in Moscow have apparently taken a turn for the worse as a result of clashes between the military and police on one hand and violent anti-Yeltsin demonstrators on the other. The Philippine Government once again expresses its unequivocal and full support for President Yeltsin's democratic forces which have been forced to act decisively in order to avert a worsening of the current situation. The remarkable restraints shown by the government forces is proof that the Yeltsin government still hopes to resolve the crises through peaceful means.

The Philippine Government is gravely concerned over the sudden turn of events in Moscow and renews its call to the parties concerned to heed the voice of reason, as well as the desire of the majority of the Russian people for peace and stability. While a small but aggressive minority has provoked the latest turbulence the silent majority of Russia remains to be heard from.

The Philippine Embassy in Moscow has issued an advisory to Filipinos residing in Russia, who number less than 100, to avoid scenes of demonstrations and to keep the embassy informed of their movements and plans. There are some 50 Filipino students residing in Russia and the other republics comprising the Commonwealth of Independent States or CIS. Our diplomatic mission in Moscow is in constant touch with the Department of Foreign Affairs and with the Office of the President, and is closely monitoring the developments in the Russian Federation. [passage omitted]

[Teves] Oliver Teves from the ASSOCIATED PRESS. Sir, the committee on the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant has recommended approval of the Westinghouse offer. Are you going to approve it?

[Ramos] I have approved this in principle, subject to some further dialogues of [Energy] Secretary Lazaro with the speaker and the president of the Senate, who were not immediately available during the weekend. But the word on this will come from Secretary Lazaro, maybe by tomorrow or a day after tomorrow.

[Teves] Are you trying to say that if the speaker of the House and the Senate president also approve of this deal, you're going to approve it? And if they don't, you're still going to hold on?

[Ramos] No, our commitment to them is just to inform them before the decision is finally released. We have a committee composed of the private sector plus government that has been working on this and the recommendation of the committee is favorable to our acceptance of the latest offer, which is a little more generous than the previous offers, but of course it is not totally generous.

But a certain point has been reached where we have to make a decision so that the thing will not indefinitely be in suspense and as there are delays, additional costs are incurred. So maybe in a couple of days the final decision will be released. [passage omitted]

[Lesontoc] Sir, good afternoon. I'm Gil Lesontoc of DWIZ. I would like to ask, this concerns the U.S. visit. Sir, I would like to ask if the cases of the two JUSMAG [Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group] colonel killers will again, will be discussed with the Philippine, no... [changes thought] with U.S. counterparts.

[Ramos] That is a pending matter, pending issue before the two governments, and there are many issues that we will be discussing when the visit is made. But we will have to prioritize the issues in view of time constraints, I suppose. We will continue to consult with the U.S. Government on what will be the priority issues because the putting up of the agenda is a joint effort. [passage omitted]

Ramos Not To Discuss Bases During U.S. Visit

BK0410062593 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0500 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Press Secretary Jesus Sison stressed today that President Ramos will only be visiting the United States for two weeks. The president is scheduled to go on a working visit to United States this October. According to Press Secretary Sison, the primary purpose of the president's visit will be to invite U.S. businessmen to invest in the Philippines. He also insisted that the chief executive will not be discussing the issue of the U.S. military bases in the country during his dialogues with U.S. officials in Washington.

Manila 'Set To Defy' World Bank Loan Conditions

BK2909012793 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 27 Sep 93 pp 1, 6

[Text] Government is set to defy policy conditions earlier agreed upon with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank even if it means canceling $40 million worth of grants in the near term.

"At this stage, we're prepared to lose those grants," said Undersecretary Pen S. Malayang of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The grants in question cover a $20-million third tranche under USAID's Natural Resources Management Program (NRMP) and another $20 million from the World Bank to underwrite the Integrated Protected Areas System (IPAS), the country's first major biodiversity conservation initiative.

Both NRMP and IPAS are laden with policy reforms mutually agreed upon by the donor institutions and the Philippine government. Release of funds for the two programs have been delayed due to DENR's failure to comply with certain requirements, mostly policy related.

In the case of NRMP, the focus of the controversy is on the lifting of the lumber export ban and the creation of a forest industries board. Both measures are opposed by environmental groups. Allowing lumber to be exported again could provide an adverse push to legitimate, as well as illegal loggers, to produce more timber beyond what local forest resources can sustain.

The furniture industry is also against lifting the ban since it might deprive them access to first class lumber. Good lumber are sold overseas at three to five times the local price.

The Department of Trade and Industry is reportedly supportive of the lifting since it could earn dollars for the country. NRMP consultants, meanwhile, indicated that additional income to the wood industry, if government withdraws the lumber ban, could boost resources to trigger private sector's shift to sustainable forest activities.

"The consultant's proposals are there but, as of now, our position is 'no' to lifting the ban," Mr. Malayang said.

The wood industry is, however, hoping that lifting of the ban would bail out many forest-based companies, which have been reeling from timber harvesting restrictions imposed by DENR in the last three years.

The other condition, the setting up of a forest industries board, is not a new concept. A similar structure—the Presidential Committee for Wood Industries Development—existed and failed during the Marcos regime. The proposed board, environmentalists fear, will further strengthen the influence of the logging industry on DENR's policy formulation initiatives. Opening up government's structure to loggers significantly weakens the chance a total log ban will ever be adopted by Government, one environmentalist said.

Two months ago, USAID convinced DENR to comply with the requirements in exchange for the release of the loan. Mr. Malayang, however, said DENR has changed its position over the issue. "We can not just comply with such policy reforms unless we have a comprehensive consultation with various sectors," he said. "And we will not compromise unless it will be good for our country."

Unlike that of NRMP, the IPAS issue revolves around foreign control over management of the project. Originally, DENR had already agreed to allow the World Bank to commission World Wildlife Fund as lead agency in the project's implementation specifically in the management and policy-formulation related activities.

Mr. Malayang, however, explained he was instructed to inform World Bank that they want a local institution to take the lead role in the project.

The current DENR position is consistent with the stand of the environmental community specifically the Green Forum.

Westinghouse Offers New Settlement Package

BK2909015593 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 27 Sep 93 p 10

[Text] The Westinghouse Electric Corp. is offering another commercial package for the government to drop its multi-million dollar suits against the U.S. firm in connection with the alleged faulty construction of the Bataan Nuclear Power Project Energy Secretary Delfin Lazaro said yesterday. But another round of negotiation for a settlement appears doomed. According to a Westinghouse lawyer in Manila, the American firm is not likely to improve on its two previous offers which had been rejected by the government.

Lazaro, who also chairs the Presidential Committee on the BNPP [PC-Bataan Nuclear Power Plant], said unless

Westinghouse will improve on its earlier offer the government is not likely to agree to new negotiations with Westinghouse. Both the government and Westinghouse panel of negotiators are tight-lipped about the details of the latest offer.

The latest offer of Westinghouse reportedly proposed a package of three 100-megawatt gas turbines worth $100 million. Lazaro refused to confirm or deny the accuracy of the report, citing a previous agreement with the American firm not to divulge the details of the negotiation.

Westinghouse made a second offer on 16 September, but the nine-man PCBNPP rejected it, saying "it was very disappointed" in the way the Westinghouse was treating the proposed settlement. Details of the 16 September offer had also been kept secret to the public.

Lazaro said he was told about the latest Westinghouse offer last week, or a week after he considered the negotiations to have been terminated. Since it first asked the government to discuss an out-of-court settlement of the BNPP cases in March 1992, Westinghouse has been cutting down on its offer, especially immediately before and after a jury ruled out the government's bribery case in New Jersey last May 18.

Said Lazaro: "If there is no improvement, there is nothing to talk about."

The Westinghouse lawyer said the government panel was "ill-advised" for not accepting the Westinghouse's 16 September offer which, he added, was the "best option possible" in the face of the government's setback in the New Jersey case.

Meanwhile, New Jersey Judge Dickinson Debevoise will begin hearing today the government's petition for the issuance of a "certificate of finality" on the jury verdict. A favorable decision will allow the government to contest the jury's verdict before a higher court.

"They (government negotiators) are getting the wrong signal that Westinghouse continues to propose a settlement because it does not believe that it has a good case," the lawyer said. He said Westinghouse wanted a settlement only because it wanted to leave the case behind and concentrate on its marketing efforts to promote the company in the ASEAN region." He added that Westinghouse also wants to pare its litigation expenses on the case which began in December, 1988.

"That's always everybody's position," Lazaro said. "Nobody ever said he has a weak case."

Sison Seeks To Return to Netherlands After Talks

HK2709033293 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Jose Maria Sison, said to be the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, wants to make sure he can return to the Netherlands after attending the second round of exploratory talks between the government and the National Democratic Front. If the Netherlands Government accepts Sison's proposal, the International Human Rights Committee will urge the Philippine Government to issue him a passport.

Vietnam has agreed to host the exploratory talks, which are expected to be held in the second week of October. Senator Rodolfo Biazon, former member of the National Unification Commission, has said that there is still a lot to be done to completely solve the country's communist insurgency problem. Biazon said the Vietnam talks could lead to formal peace talks.

Communists Reject Memorandum as Basis for Talks

BK0110045793 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Communist rebels yesterday said they will not participate in another round of preliminary talks to end their 24-year insurgency if the government insisted on the Philippine Constitution as the framework. The communist-led National Democratic Front [NDF] and the government had earlier agreed to hold their second exploratory talks in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, but no date has been set.

Luis Jalandoni, NDF vice chairman, said President Ramos threw a monkey wrench into the peace process when he issued a 15 September memorandum that imposes the charter as the framework of the peace talk. This is totally unacceptable, Jalandoni said, in a statement faxed to media men from his base in Utrecht, The Netherlands. This condition violates the joint declaration signed in The Hague on 1 September last year, rendering impossible the holding of the second round of exploratory talks, he [Jalandoni] said. The declaration calls for the holding of peace negotiations in accordance with mutually acceptable principles, including national sovereignty, democracy, and social justice, and without preconditions. Once it [the memorandum] is withdrawn, representatives of the NDF and the government could meet before the next exploratory talk in order to thresh out various important details, including the kinks caused by this memorandum, Jalandoni said.

He also urged Ramos to order the release of more than 350 political prisoners as a goodwill measure.

The Vietnamese Government has agreed to the holding of the exploratory talks in Ho Chi Minh City, but no specific date has been set. Officials say the talks could take place on the second week of October.

Ten Muslim Guerrillas, 3 Civilians Said Killed

BK0110074293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0726 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Cotabato, Philippines, Oct 1 (AFP)—At least 10 Muslim guerrillas were killed near this southern city

Friday in a clash with police after they ambushed a logging truck, leaving three civilians dead, officials said.

Senior police inspector Salik Macapantar said about 50 members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) ambushed the truck before dawn near Buldon town, about 800 kilometers (500 miles) south of Manila, killing three Muslim sawmill workers on board.

Police chased and engaged the guerrillas in a running gunbattle, killing at least 10 attackers, he said.

The MILF has frequently clashed with guards of a logging company operating in the area, Macapantar said.

The MILF is a breakaway faction of the Moro National Liberation Front, which has been campaigning for Muslim self-rule in the south of the largely Roman Catholic Philippines. Many guerrillas have turned to banditry after their struggle waned in the late 1970s.

Committee To Reinvestigate Aquino Murder

BK2709120793 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 24 Sep 93 pp 1, 12

[Text] Senate President Edgardo Angara yesterday formed a special committee to reinvestigate the Aquino-Galman double murder, after Senator Blas Ople had provided fresh leads on the crime's alleged "masterminds." He said the five members of the panel will be designated next week, with Senator Raul Roco, chairman of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, as the likely head. "The Senate inquiry will help us frame a future political assassination act," Angara said. "It will pick up where the Sandiganbayan [graft court] trial and the Agrava Commission investigation left off."

Both the Agrava Commission and the Sandiganbayan concluded that the August 21, 1983 killing of former Senator Benigno Aquino and Rolando Galman was a military conspiracy. But the court, which meted out double life terms each to 15 Constabulary soldiers convicted for the murders, failed to unmask the masterminds. Earlier, Ople informed Angara that at least one of the 15 convicted soldiers was willing to provide information leading to the identity of the masterminds.

At a dialogue Wednesday at the New Bilibid Prisons, the unnamed soldier gave Ople the names of the alleged masterminds. Ople described them as "definitely part of the Marcos administration, very important people, and very much around."

Ople filed a resolution calling for a new inquiry into the case last month, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Aquino's assassination. A resolution constituting the special panel and defining its mandate and powers is being drafted and will be presented to the Senate next week.

Initially, the Senate is considering giving the panel subpoena powers to require agencies and officials to help in the investigation. Angara said the Senate will leave it to the special committee to determine the venue of the hearings and if Ople's proposal to allow the return of former Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fabian Ver should be adopted.

He said the inquiry will work independently of the three-member presidential committee chaired by Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon. President Ramos formed the committee to determine if there was basis for a new inquiry into the double murder.

But Angara said the Senate does not rule out an inquiry conducted jointly with the Drilon committee.

"They can backstop the Senate, if they want to," he said.

Thailand

Prime Minister Leaves for UN General Assembly

BK0210053893 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai this morning leaves for the United States on board Thai Airways International flight TG770 on his mission to address the United Nations General Assembly on 6 October. The prime minister leads a small party which includes Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan, Secretary General to the Prime Minister Thawat Wichaidit, and former Minister to the Prime Minister's Office Khunying Suphatra Matsadit. Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin will join the party in New York. He has been in the United States attending a high-level meeting at the World Bank head office in Washington, D.C.

The prime minister and his party are put up at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Los Angeles. He is scheduled to visit a Thai temple in Los Angeles and meet the Thai community in California. He leaves Los Angeles for New York by United Airlines flight UA04 tomorrow morning.

Chuan To Outline Cambodia Policy

BK0110030593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Oct 93 p 2

[Text] PRIME Minister Chuan Likphai will leave for the United States tomorrow to address the United Nations General Assembly in New York on the government's foreign policy, particularly toward Cambodia. Government Spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa said Chuan hoped to forge an understanding with the international community about his government's approach to international politics.

Sources said Chuan would concentrate on explaining the government's position on post-Constitution Cambodia and especially the Khmer Rouge, who face increasing interational opposition to their bid to share power with the newly-elected government in Phnom Penh. His nine-day trip will also include a stop in Britain. It will be his first trip outside Southeast Asia since assuming office a year ago and coincides with increasing international criticism of Thailand's "friendly" relations with the intransigent Khmer Rouge, who boycotted the peace process and subsequent general elections in Cambodia.

Aphisit said Chuan's 10-member entourage will include Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri. Chuan will be joined in New York by Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan and Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin, who are on separate working visits abroad.

The prime minister is scheduled to address the general assembly on Oct 6. He will also meet UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Pham Van Khai, the head of Hanoi's delegation to the UN.

Chuan is due to arrive in New York on Oct 3 after an overnight stop in Los Angeles where he will visit a Thai temple and meet Thai residents.

During his four days in New York, Chuan will also speak at a dinner reception organized by the Asia Society. Guests will include prominent business figures in the United States and ASEAN. He is also to attend a seminar on Thai-U.S. economic relations jointedly organized by the influential U.S.-ASEAN Council of Business and Technology, the Thai-American Chamber of Commerce and the Business Council for International Understanding.

Chuan is due to leave for London on Oct 7, where he is to preside over the opening of a representative office for Thai banks. He is due to return to Bangkok on Oct 11.

Foreign Minister To Reaffirm Policy

BK0410022293 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Oct 93 p 4

[Text] THAILAND's policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of Cambodia will be stressed at the United Nations general assembly, Foreign Minister Sqn Ldr Prasong Sunsiri said before his departure for the United States yesterday. He said Thailand only wants to see reconciliation in that country.

"We don't know what measures the new Cambodian government plans to take against the Khmer Rouge, but the Thai Government will only support an elected government," Sqn Ldr Prasong said. He said Thailand does not support or favour any particular group in that country and will not help any side should they start fighting again.

"We will only keep a close watch on the border and take care of our own people. If we catch any armed intruders, we will disarm and detain them before pushing them back into their country," the Foreign Minister said. Sqn Ldr Prasong said some countries still misunderstand Thailand's real intentions when talking about the Khmer Rouge and its genocidal past.

"But it should not be forgotten that Thailand was one of the countries that helped push for peace and the Paris Agreement," he added.

Asked about the possibility of heavy fighting resuming in Cambodia, Sqn Ldr Prasong said he believed a settlement would soon be reached. He said Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan had met King Norodom Sihanouk but what they talked about was not disclosed. Concerning Thai businessmen who have signed business contracts with the Khmer Rouge, Sqn Ldr Prasong said Cambodian Coprime Ministers Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen had assured Prime Minister Chuan Likphai that the Cambodian government would honour those contracts.

Sqn Ldr Prasong said he expects to meet the two at the United Nations and would discuss the crossborder trade with them.

Government Reaffirms Support for Yeltsin

BK0110072293 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Thailand reaffirms her great relations with the Russian Federation. Russian Ambassador to Thailand Oleg Bostorin on Wednesday paid a call on Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri to inform him of the current situation in Russia. Troubles in Russia came after President Boris Yeltsin dissolved the parliament, which was a remnant from the Soviet era, on 21 September and called a new election during 10 and 12 December, 1993. Foreign Minister Prasong said Thailand is keeping a close watch on the situation in Russia and will support the democratic system in that country under President Boris Yeltsin.

Official on Workers in Libyan Weapon Plants

BK0410071993 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 2 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] Phaithun Kaeothong, deputy labor and social welfare minister, said on 1 October that that day marked the deadline the United States had set to take drastic action against Libya if that country failed to hand over suspects in the Pan Am bomb attack. On this issue, Phaithun said the Thai Government had prepared measures to help Thai workers in Libya, particularly with the threat of a possible U.S. armed attack in view. He said the Thai labor officials in Athens, Greece have been instructed to prepare evacuation plans for about 25,000 Thai workers in Liyba. A 200-million-baht fund has been allocated for this purpose.

Phaithun said: "Only about 10,000 of the 25,000 Thai workers are working legally in Libya. The other 15,000 work there illegally. However, government assistance will be given to all workers. They would be moved to safer sites; they would not be brought back to Thailand.

Phaithun said the number of Thai workers in Libyan chemical weapons plants is uncertain. He only knew that the U.S.-supplied number is 200 and that these people were placed in their jobs by three companies: the SPC Suphachok Company, the W and M Associates Company, and the Handle Company. The first company has been blacklisted for having violated the law. The other two companies exported workers without proper registration with the Labor Ministry. More checks will be made because their export of workers was done outside of the government system.

Phaithun said he was concerned about assistance to these Thai workers because they have not contacted their relatives. He has already asked the Thai labor officials in Greece to inform Thai workers via BBC Thai language broadcasts to leave the plants as soon as possible due to possible U.S. attacks. He said the Labor Ministry had done all it could to help these workers. Phaithun said the government has no policy to encourage workers to work in weapons plants overseas. It wants other countries to understand that Thailand does not encourage the building of chemical weapons. Thailand issued an announcement on 24 September prohibiting the export of workers to such plants anywhere in the world.

In any event, Dr. Bun Wanasin, adviser to the Labor Ministry and the Foreign Ministry's coordinator with the Labor Ministry, said he had learned that Libya had agreed to hand over the three suspects in the plane bombing and, as a result, he believed that the United States will reduce pressure against Libya and not launch an attack within two weeks. He also believed the situation will be resolved by negotiations.

NSC Chief Says Fleeing Cambodians Given Refuge

BK0210064193 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] According to General Charan Kunlawanit, the National Security Council [NSC] secretary general, fighting between the Khmer Rouge and Cambodian Government forces in Ban O Smach, opposite Thailand's Kap Choeng District of Surin Province, resulted in the Khmer Rouge succeeding in capturing the area and the government operational base. The clash also resulted in thousands of people and wounded and healthy Cambodian soldiers fleeing into Thailand. Charan said that faced with this situation, Thailand has to accept the wounded and fleeing people on humanitarian grounds. There were seven wounded, all Cambodian Government soldiers. The approximately 1,000 people seeking refuge have been given temporary shelter.

The NSC secretary general said assessment of the damage from the fighting was impossible because the damage occurred in Cambodia. However, the two clashes that took place today have caused problems for Thailand both from the fighting itself and from having to shelter the wounded and the refugees on humanitarian grounds. He said what had happened is proof that Thailand has never assisted the Khmer Rouge as alleged. Thailand condemns violence which results in the loss of lives and blood and in a negative impact on Thailand. He said the Thai ambassador in Phnom Penh has informed the Cambodian Government about the incident and the assistance to Cambodians who fled to Thailand.

Norwegian Suspected of Running Drug Ring Arrested

BK0410012193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Oct 93 p 8

[Text] Phatthaya—Narcotics suppression police have arrested a Norwegian suspected of heading a heroin ring smuggling the drug into Norway. Erling Lein 32, from Oslo, was arrested on Wednesday at his home in Soi Kopai, South Phatthaya.

Division chief Pol Maj Chirat Phichitphai said the Norwegian Government told its embassy in Thailand to suspend Erling's passport. He said he had no power to take any action on this suspect apart from arresting him. Two police from the Norwegian drug suppression division, Tommy Bruland and Knut Nielsen are investigating Lein who is being held at Phatthaya police station while awaiting extradition to his home country.

Lein had been in Phatthaya for more than a year and made frequent trips between Thailand and Norway, a police source said.

Pol Col Yuthabun Thissama said he was invited to Norway for press conference on Wednesday concerning four Norwegians arrested in Oslo last week on charges of smuggling 2.1 kg of heroin from Phatthaya to Norway. All of the suspects worked for the Scandinavian Airline System (SAS) as luggage handlers. It would have been very easy for them to transfer drugs at the airport while avoiding Customs, he said. Norwegian police have been investigating the suspects for a long time. The four suspects in custody in Oslo, allegedly named Lein as the key person who set up the alleged drugs ring.

Reporters from TV2, AFTENPOSTEN, VG and the DAGBLADET newspaper have come to Phatthaya to investigate the case. One, who declined to be named said the inquiry was big news in Norway because of the weight and value of heroin. In Norway, one gramme of heroin fetches at least 90,000 baht, the reporter said.

Norwegian police earlier arrested a Turk, allegedly with 3.5 kg of heroin, on August 6 at Copenhagen airport in Denmark. They suspect this man is also part of the same gang. Pol Col Yuthabun said the Thai police have passed all information they have on the suspects to the Norwegian police.

To thank the Thai police from the narcotics suppression division of Eastern Thailand, the Norwegian policemen presented a shield to Pol Col Yuthabun yesterday on behalf of their commissioner, Willy Haugli. Mr Bruland said the shield was given only to people who performed their duties in an exemplary manner.

"We all work for the public and never expect any gifts but this shield gives us full pride," Pol Col Yuthabun said.

Vietnam

Buddhist Demonstration Reports Said 'Fabrication'

BK0210150793 Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 2—A foreign source has reported that a demonstration took place in Hue city.

VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY is authorized to declare that this fabrication was aired by an 'overseas information office' of the Buddhist organization set up by a number of overseas Vietnamese with ill-intention.

Party Leader To Visit Singapore, Thailand

BK3009114993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] The Foreign Relations Department of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee has issued a communique indicating that Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi will pay an official visit to the Republic of Singapore and the Kingdom of Thailand in a not-too-distant future at the invitations of His Excellency Goh Chok Tong, prime minister of the Republic of Singgapore and general secretary of the Singaporean People's Action Party, and His Excellency Chuan Likphai, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

VNA Provides Visit Details

BK0110144793 Hanoi VNA in English 1340 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 1—Mr. Hong Ha, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and head of its international department, has granted an interview to the international relations review on the occasion of General Secretary Do Muoi's coming visits to Singapore and Thailand.

On the visit schedule Mr Hong Ha said that in Singapore, General Secretary Do Muoi will have meetings, talks and working sessions with the highest leaders of Singapore. He will visit a number of important institutions and economic, cultural and social welfare establishments.

In Thailand, the general secretary will have meetings, talks and working sessions with the highest leaders of Thailand. He will meet with Thai businessmen, visit some localities and important economic and cultural establishments there.

Asked about the significance of General Secretary Do Muoi's visits, Hong Ha said:

'This event takes place while the situation in the world and the region has many far-reaching changes. The trend for peace, stability and cooperation in Asia and the Pacific in general and Southeast Asia in particular is developing. In the process of renovation, our people have gained great and important achievements. The independent, sovereign, open, diversified and multilateral policy of Vietnam has obtained fine results, enjoying warm welcome from countries in the region and in the world. The relations between Vietnam and Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand as well as neighbouring countries and other ASEAN countries have had positive changes and showed fine prospects. The ASEAN countries want Vietnam to take part in their cooperative forums and mechanism.

'The general secretary's visits to Singapore and Thailand will first of all strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation with those countries, affirm the importance of the foreign policy of Vietnam towards Southeast Asia, and of its relations with neighbouring countries and with each ASEAN country. That policy is aimed to contribute to consolidating peace, security, cooperation and development in the region without any influence on a third country.

'These visits will contribute to raising the relations between Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries in general, and Singapore and Thailand in particular, to a new step with higher effectiveness.'

'This is an opportunity for General Secretary Do Muoi to exchange views with Singaporean and Thai leaders on a number of major issues of common concern, and at the same time to learn about the socio-economic management of those countries,' Mr Hong Ha added.

Do Muoi Reportedly Cancels Visit to Malaysia

BK0210072893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi, Oct 1 (AFP)—The head of Vietnam's Communist party, Do Muoi, has cancelled a visit to Malaysia which was to have been his first stop on a scheduled three-nation ASEAN tour this month, informed sources said Friday.

Instead he will confine his trips to Singapore from October 5-8 and Bangkok October 15-18, the sources said.

(In Kuala Lumpur a Vietnamese Embassy spokesman said the visit had been called off at the request of Malaysia because of the "busy schedule of Malaysian leaders."

(Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed is currently in New York attending the United Nations General Assembly session.)

Du Muoi will be making the first official visit of a Vietnamese Communist Party chief to Singapore and Thailand since the Association of Southeast Asian

Nations (ASEAN) was created in 1967. Other ASEAN members are Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines.

He will be accompanied by a number of party officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong and Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

The visits are aimed at "reinforcing friendly and cooperative relations" with Singapore and Thailand and other ASEAN neighbours, the official daily Nhan Dan said here.

It called the visits significant since "over the past few years relations between Vietnam and ASEAN have seen positive changes and a promising future."

Singapore has become Vietnam's principal trading partner and its 1Oth largest foreign investor.

At the beginning of 1993, ASEAN countries were involved in 74 projects in Vietnam, accounting for 436 million dollars—almost 10 percent of all foreign investment.

After years of isolation, Vietnam has been engaged recently in diplomatic initiatives towards ASEAN in the aim of developing economic cooperation and to pave the way for entrance into the grouping—which was intially founded to stem the spread of communism in Asia.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet visited all six ASEAN countries between October 1991 and June 1992, soon after the fall of the Soviet bloc.

Vietnam already has a foot in ASEAN, having been awarded observer status in July 1992. Hanoi was invited to join the expanded ASEAN regional forum (ARF)—which will focus on security—during ASEAN's 26th foreign ministers' conference last July in Singapore.

Vo Van Kiet Congratulates Cambodian Leaders

BK0110150793 Hanoi VNA in English 1408 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 1—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet today extended congratulations to Prince Norodom Ranariddh and H.E. Hun Sen on their appointments respectively as first prime minister and second prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Vo Van Kiet Sends Sympathy to Indian Leader

BK0110145593 Hanoi VNA in English 1408 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 1—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet yesterday sent his deep sympathy to his Indian counterpart, P.V. Narasimha Rao, over the recent strong earthquake in Maharashtra state, which caused great losses in lives and property to the Indian people.

Radio Comments on Relations With India

BK3009132793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The relations between Vietnam and India have entered a new stage: that of equal cooperation for mutual benefit and for exploitation of the capacities of each country. This has been clearly expressed through the just-ended visit of Indian Vice President Narayanan. Here is our review of the latest developments:

Through this visit, Vietnam and India have decided to renew their relations on the basis of good relations in the political field. As party General Secretary Do Muoi put it: The two countries will further strengthen their economic, trade, scientific, and technical and cultural cooperation in service of economic development of each country. The two countries have decided to quickly promote trade ties, cooperation, and joint ventures in infrastructure, small- and medium-sized industries. Vice President Narayanan said his country is ready to assist Vietnam in scientific and technical personnel training, including management and business training.

India and Vietnam have for many years now been close friends. The relations between the two countries have been fine despite the upheavals in the world. At present, with the renewal of their relations, it is hoped that further cooperation will be promoted.

Mr. S.L. Malik, Indian ambassador to Vietnam, once affirmed that India is trying to expand its relations with neighboring countries and normalize its relations with other countries. Right after Vice President Narayanan's visit, the Indian prime minister expressed his interest to visit Vietnam. It is hoped that he will pay an official visit to Vietnam early next year. The Indian ambassador wished for further development of bilateral relations on the basis of close friendship.

National Assembly Delegation Visits China

BK0210152993 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 2—A delegation of the Vietnamese National Assembly led by Mai Thuc Lan, member of the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly and head of the commission paid a working visit to China from Sept. 20 to Oct. 1 as guest of the Financial and Economic Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China.

During its stay in Beijing the delegation held talks with its counterpart and had working sessions with the State Commission for Restructuring Institution, the Economy and Trade Commission and the Ministry of Finance.

It was received by Chen Muhua, vice chairman of the permanent committee of the NPC. During the reception, Chen Muhua brought out the achievements recorded by the Chinese people in the implementation of their transformation and open door policy.

The Vietnamese guests toured Shanghai city, Quangdong Province and a number of economic and cultural establishments.

Dutch Transport Minister, Delegates on Visit

BK0110152393 Hanoi VNA in English 1415 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 1—A delegation of the Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Conservancy led by its Minister Mrs. Hanja Maij-Weggen is here for a week-long working visit to Vietnam.

The visiting delegation today held talks with a delegation of the Vietnamese Ministry of Transport and Communications led by Minister Bui Danh Luu. The two ministers informed each other of their countries' capabilities in cooperation in transport and communications, especially in the restoration of harbours, aviation ports, railway and roads. They discussed about Dutch assistance to Vietnam in technicians' training and public works management.

Later in the day, an air transport agreement was signed by Nguyen Hong Nhi, director of Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam, and Dutch Minister Hanja Maij-Weggen.

At present, the KLM Dutch airlines corporation is operating chartered flights from Amsterdam to Ho Chi Minh City. According to this agreement, KLM will arrange regular flights to Vietnam.

Meet Deputy Foreign Minister

BK0210154393 Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 2—A memorandum of understanding on the establishment of the Vietnamese-Dutch dredge joint venture limited company (Vietdredge J.V. Ltd) was signed here on the occasion of a working visit to Vietnam by Mrs. Johanna Maij-Weggen, Minister of Transport, Public Works and Water Conservancy.

This joint venture is aimed at upgrading the ability of Vietnam's dredgers, training managers and technicians, and inquiring into markets and international financial resources.

While here, the Dutch delegation was also received by Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong.

Speaking to the Dutch minister, Mr. Luong held that her visit has made a significant contribution to the strengthening of the friendship and cooperative relations between Vietnam and the Netherlands. He affirmed that Vietnam has always attached importance to the development of the cooperative ties with the European countries in general and the Netherlands in particular.

Hold News Conference

BK0310083593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] The delegation from the Netherlands Transport, Public Works, and Water Conservancy Ministry—led by Minister Mrs. Maij-Weggen—held a news conference in Hanoi this afternoon on the results of its visit to Vietnam.

The delegation had working sessions with the Vietnamese Communications and Transport Ministry, Water Conservancy Ministry, and the Post and Telegraph Department. Both sides signed an agreement on aviation transport that will allow KLM Dutch Airlines to increase its flights into Ho Chi Minh City from one to two per week. They will discuss opening a new route to Hanoi in the near future. Another agreement was signed to establish a joint venture between the (DVJ) Company and Waterway Transport General Corporation to build waterway projects and perform dredging in Vietnam. Notes of understanding were also signed to pave the way for Dutch companies that wish to cooperate in upgrading airports, and on a $200,000 grant for the antialluvium and dredging project at Vietnam's Haiphong port.

Tomorrow the delegation will visit Ho Chi Minh City to investigate and develop projects there.

Meteorology Meeting With Russian Delegation Ends

BK0110075393 Hanoi VNA in English 0654 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct.1—An official meeting has been taken place here between a delegation of the Vietnam General Department of Meteorology and Hydrology led by its Deputy Director General Trinh Van Thu and a delegation of the Russian Federation's Service for Hydrology Meteorology and Environment.

This is the 14th-meeting held between Vietnam and Russia to discuss the present situation in the hydrometeorological field in each country and prospects and news forms of the future cooperation between the two institutions. The minutes of the meeting was signed on Sept.30.

The two sides agreed on the continuation of the intergovernmental agreement signed on March 28, 1980 between the two countries.

Delegation Attends Meeting on Children in Manila

BK0110151193 Hanoi VNA in English 1408 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 1—A delegation of Vietnam led by Mrs. Tran Thi Thanh Thanh, cabinet minister and head of the Vietnam Committee for Child Protection and Care, attended the Ministerial Consultation on

Goals for Children and Development in the 1990s held in Manila, the Philippines, from Sept. 27-29.

The conference sponsored by the Philippine Government and the United Nations Children's Fund, was attended by 17 countries in East Asia and the Pacific. It was aimed at enhancing the pledges of the countries in the region on mid-decade goal for children, exchanging experience and planning a programme of activities on the implementation of national programmes on child care and protection.

The conference highly appreciated Vietnam's efforts and experience in the implementation of goals for children and proposed Vietnam to host similar conference in 1995.

Air Service Agreement Signed With Brunei

BK0210110793 Hanoi VNA in English 1240 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 1—A memorandum on civil aviation cooperation between Vietnam and Brunei was recently signed here by Dao Manh Nhuong, deputy director of the Civial Aviation Administration of Vietnam, and Pengiran Rakawi Bin Pengiran Haji Sabli, director of Civil Aviation Administration of Brunei.

Under the document, Vietnam Airlines and Royal Brunei Airlines are appointed to arrange air service between Vietnam and Brunei.

Air Link Established With Sydney, Australia

BK3009130193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Vietnam Airlines has opened an air route linking Ho Chi Minh City with Sydney with two flights per week. These will be the first chartered regular flights to Australia operated by Vietnam Airlines. After July's flights between the two countries were operated by Australian airlines Qantas, they left the Tan Son Nhat Airport every Friday. This new air route opened as a result of efforts made by the Vung Tau Tourism Company.

Prime Minister Writes to Children's Journal

BK3009081393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] On the occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of the journal NHI DONG [children], Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet sent a letter, dated 29 September, to the editorial staff and cadres, correspondents, and contributors of the journal, commending everyone for their achievements and great efforts in serving the needs of the young readership over the past 10 years. The prime minister expressed the hope that the editorial staff and all cadres, correspondents, and contributors would try even harder to constantly improve the quality of their work so that the journal might diversify its contents and make them more and more appealing with each passing day, thereby proving itself worthy of being called a dear friend of our children nationwide.

Do Muoi Visits Disabled Children in Hanoi

BK3010045393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] In the afternoon of 29 September, Comrade Party General Secretary Do Muoi visited Thanh Xuan Peace Village to mark this year's Full Moon Festival. The peace village is a scientific research and medical treatment center for disabled children in Dong Da Precinct of Hanoi.

The party general secretary visited medical wards and viewed rooms, playgrounds, and other establishments of the village. He asked cadres and workers working there about the children's living conditions, medical treatment, and progress. He urged the village to pay more attention to scientific research work to find the best measures to rehabilitate disabled children. Comrade Do Muoi talked and presented gifts to inpatient children, most of whom are children of war veterans who were infected by poisonous chemicals after the war.

On the same day, Comrade Do Muoi visited the National Committee for the Investigation of the Result of Poisonous Chemicals Used During the Vietnam War, which has a short name of Committee 10-80. Apart from its scientific research work, the committee also sponsors and offers operational advice to Thanh Xuan Peace Village.

Le Duc Anh Writes to Children on Moon Festival

BK2909104993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] On this year's Full Moon Festival, President Le Duc Anh sent a letter to children in all regions of the country, Vietnamese children living abroad, and foreign children in Vietnam. The letter reads in full as follows:

Dear children,

Today is the Full Moon Festival Day, your festival day. On behalf of the party and government, I wish all children in different regions of the country, Vietnamese children living abroad, and foreign children in Vietnam a Full Moon Festival Day of happiness and unity. In the past years, the party, government, and parents have created as many favorable conditions as possible for improving your health, schooling, and play. Many children have recorded excellent achievements in their study and training, bringing joy to their parents, teachers, and friends. I recommend you for those achievements.

On this occasion, I expect that the party committees, government at all levels, and social organizations will further improve the implementation of the Law on the Protection, Care, and Education of Children and the National Program of Action for Vietnamese Children. I sincerely thank all international organizations for their attention and spiritual and material assistance to Vietnamese children.

I hope that all of you will obey your parents, grandparents, and teachers, and that you will be polite to everybody, respect the law and discipline, try hard in your studies and training, and perform more good deeds to become good children and students, deserving the title "Good Children of Uncle Ho." I send you many kisses.

Vu Oanh Addresses Symposium on Elderly People

BK0110100993 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] To welcome the International Day for the Aged, 1 October, the Hai Hung Provincial Steering Committee for the Celebration of the International Day for the Aged—in coordination with the Social Science School and the National Center for Science and Human Resources—held a symposium on 28 September 1993 to discuss the theme: Social Science, Elderly People, the Actual Situation and Solutions.

Attending were Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Le Quang Dao, party and youth union secretary [bis thuw dqangr dqoanf] of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee; Comrade Tran Dinh Hoan, minister of war invalids and social welfare; and various leading comrades of Hai Hung Province.

Participants in the symposium heard 16 scientific reports presenting the psychology, both theoretical and practical, of elderly people. They discussed such matters as [words indistinct] and a research program on the elderly in Hai Hung.

Addressing the symposium, both Comrade Vu Oanh and Comrade Le Quang Dao welcomed the results obtained in the process of research, regarding these as a necessary basis for mapping out policies and for providing guidance for activities in connection with the elderly.

Vu Oanh Attends Hai Hung Fatherland Front Meeting

BK0110090393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] On 29 September, the Hai Hung Fatherland front held a meeting to review the 10-year operation of the Longevity Fund and the five-year public campaign of exemplary grandparents and parents, obedient children, and well-behaved grandchildren. Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the party Political Bureau and director of the Propaganda and Mobilization Central Commission, attended the meeting. The meeting highly evaluated the front's efficient and encouraging activities in the past and outlined the operational directions for the future. Due to its good performance, the Hai Hung Longevity Fund was conferred the Labor Order Third Class by the government. In the entire province, five branches of the fund were given certificates of meritorious service by the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee and 30 branches and hundreds of individuals were commended by the fronts of the provincial and lower levels.

Pham The Duyet Attends Hanoi Writers Conference

BK0110100793 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Under the joint sponsorship of the Hanoi Writers' and Artists' Association and the Journal TIEN PHONG, the first conference of young Hanoi writers opened on the morning of 27 September 1993. Attending were many young writers of the capital. They represented various areas such as poetry composition, novel writing, and literary critics. There were three delegates from Ho Chi Minh city and one from Haiphong municipality.

Also present were Comrade Pham The Duyet, secretary of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee; Vu Tue Nam, general secretary of the Vietnam Writers' Association; and representatives of various press organs at the central level and in Hanoi.

Poet (Bo Cung Phuong) read an introduction to changes in the substance and art of literature in the new situation and discussed the current role of literature in reflecting realities. All the participating young writers and poets engaged in a heated debate over literary criticism and creation and over the duty of writers amid new changes in the national situation.

Nguyen Duc Binh Attends Graduation Ceremony

BK0110090593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] On 30 September, the Ho Chi Minh National Politics Institute held a graduation ceremony for the first post-graduate course for seven specialized theoretical subjects: philosophy, scientific socialism, economics and politics, economic management, party history and party building, and the history of international worker movements. Comrade Nguyen Duc Binh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, addressed the ceremony. This first post-graduate course was held in conformity with the regulations for the post-graduate system in our country. Out of 131 students, 113 successfully presented their theses and the National Thesis Assessment Committee unanimously agreed to ask the minister of education and training to recognize their master's degrees.

Phan Van Kai Chairs 29-30 Sep Government Meeting

BK0110070193 Hanoi VNA in English 0639 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct.1—The government held its regular session here from Sept. 29-30 under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai.

The government heard a report on the 'Overall Programme of Administrative Reforms' and the 'draft amendments and supplements to the Law on the Election of Deputies to the People's Council's' presented by Phan Ngoc Tuong, minister and head of the organisation and personnel committee of the government; a report on the programme of researches on economic reforms in 1993-1997 presented by Le Xuan Trinh, minister and head of the government office; a draft ordinance on 'Vietnam's Diplomatic Representative Offices Abroad' by Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Manh Cam; a draft ordinance on jurisdiction and law applied to marriage and family relations between Vietnamese citizens and foreigners and a draft ordinance on recognition and execution of the decision of foreign arbitrators in Vietnam presented by Minister of Justice Nguyen Dinh Loc. Speaking at the end of the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai drew attention of the government members to the importance of the fulfilment of the socio-economic plan in the fourth quarter of 1993 as a condition for the successful implementation the 1993 plan and for the elaboration of the 1994 plan.

Leaders Attend Ho Chi Minh City Training Course

BK2909133793 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] From 7 to 23 September, a national training course on mass mobilization work was held in Ho Chi Minh City with the participation of 213 comrades from 53 provinces and cities and departments and sectors at the central level. The participants studied 13 lessons and reports on the fundamental issues of the mass mobilization work and the contents and methods for mobilizing the public in the new situation.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, adviser to the party Central Committee; Truong My Hoa, secretary of the party Central Committee; and Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh addressed the course on the fundamental issues of the mass mobilization work in the current situation. On the closing day, Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the party Political Bureau, delivered a speech. He stressed that the mass mobilization work must be attached to the political duties of the party and its policies, laws, and regulations. It must relate closely to production and business and help to solve the people's practical problems, and it must conform with the national socioeconomic renovation.

This is a course on mass mobilization work with a rich and practical content, helping the mass mobilization cadres to upgrade their knowledge and experience in their work.

Bank Delegation Meets With World Bank President

BK0210152193 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 2—Lewis Preston, president of the World Bank [WB] received in Washington on Sept. 29 a Vietnamese delegation led by Cao Si Kiem, governor of the State Bank, who was attending the 48th conference of IMF and WB.

The WB president highly appreciated the initial achievements of Vietnam in economic renovation and proposed that Vietnam take stronger measures to accelerate the reforms in state-owned enterprises and in finance and banking in order to encourage domestic accumulation for the investment in infrastructure and socio-economic projects.

Governor Cao Si Kiem expressed the Vietnamese Government's thanks to the World Bank for its technical assistance as well as its preparation to investment projects in Vietnam. He reaffirmed Vietnam's determination to go on with its economic reforms.

During talks with WB officials, the latter made known that on Oct. 4 it will negotiate with Vietnam two development credit agreements, one of which bears on primary education and another on the restoration of portions of the national highway 1A from Hanoi to Vinh and from Ho Chi Minh City to Can Tho.

WB Vice-President G. Kagi will visit Vietnam early November 1993 and officially sign these two agreements.

At present, the World Bank and Vietnam are completing necessary procedures for a project on agricultural restoration in the Red River delta.

Total amount of these three credit loans in 1993 is 320 million US dollars. WB has further made known that it might provide Vietnam with loans of 350 million US dollars each year for the construction of infrastructures and socioeconomic projects.

First Duty-Free Shop Opens in Hanoi

BK0210070493 Hanoi VNA in English 0650 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct 2—The Hanoi General Trading and Services company has recently inaugurated a duty-free shop in Hanoi selling various kinds of imports and a number of high-quality domestic products.

The shop, located at Block C4, Giang Vo, caters exclusively to members of the diplomatic corps, international organisations and non-governmental organisations during their assignments in Vietnam. It sells seven kinds of imports by quota to both individuals and organisations, including cars, motor-cycles, vcrs, tv sets, radio cassettes, beer and many kinds of brandy.

Food and household utensils are sold to both organisations and individuals with rationing imposed on individuals only, the sales manager said.

Purchases can be ordered by telephone and fax for home delivery, the shop manager said, adding that imports can also be ordered.

After-sales services are available to customers in accordance with international practice, he said.

Growth in Imports Surpasses Exports Through Sep

BK0310064493 Hanoi VNA in English 0557 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 3—Exports increased 14 percent over the first nine months of this year, but imports grew by more than doubling this amount.

The export value was estimated at 2 billion USD representing 70 percent of the yearly plan.

Most of the major hard currency earners were exported at a fairly high rate compared with annual plans: crude oil (70 percent), rice (70 percent), aquatic products (72 percent), groundnuts (75 percent), textile and garments (76 percent), coffee (85 percent).

The import value reached 2.1 billion U.S. dolllars following growth of 34 percent, representing 75 percent of the yearly plan.

Many main import items have shown higher rates than the corresponding period last year. For example, petrol and building steel increased 17 percent and 83 percent respectively.

The market increase is largely due to the development of more efficient domestic production techniques, higher product quality and better management structures. The surge is also attributed to more liberal goods exchange policies at home and abroad, a more relaxed source of foreign currency and the establishment of new markets and trade partners. As a result of these achievements, market prices remain stable. Total sales in the period were 60,000 billion dong (roughly 6 billion U.S. dollars), up by about 15 percent over the whole year of 1992. The supply of essential goods has met consumption demand. The retail sale index rose 0.55 percent-0.65 percent in the past nine months. Exporters are trying to obtain nearly one billion U.S. dollars in the remaining months so as to achieve the target of 2.8 billion U.S dollars worth of exports this year.

Hanoi Exports 1.25 Million Tons of Rice

BK0210090793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] By mid-September, Vietnam's rice export reached 1.25 million tons, an increase of 6.8 percent over the same period last year. This is thanks to intensive technological investment in milling, processing, polishing, and in selecting new strains to meet market demand.

Last year, Vietnam ranked forth among world rice exporters with 1.95 million tons. To boost rice export, the government has recently decided to allow exporters (?tax holiday).

Nationwide 10th-Month Rice Figures Reported

BK0210072093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] As of 25 September more than 2,500,000 hectares of 10th-month rice had been planted nationwide, attaining more than 65 percent of the planned total. Areas in the northern provinces, due to drought, have failed to plant all the planned areas. The southern provinces have attained 90 percent of the target.

Thanks to recent rain in various areas, peasants are racing against time to finish planting the 10th-month rice under the most favorable conditions.

Nearly 1,300,000 hectares of summer-fall rice have been harvested nationwide, representing 89 percent of the target.

Da Lat Nuclear Research Institute Profiled

BK0310142193 Hanoi VNA in English 1357 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 4—In 1990, Doctor G. Nair, an expert of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), wrote about the Da Lat Nuclear Research Institute as follows:

'By its quick development, the Da Lat Nuclear Research Institute deserves help from every part of the world. On behalf of the IAEA, I wish the best future for the institute. This is a very good example proving that with devotion, hard work and creativeness how nice result can a developing country achieve.'

Set up in 1956, the Da Lat nuclear reactor was the first of its kind in Southeast Asia. With the assistance from the former Soviet Union and IAEA, the reactor was restored in early 1984 with a capacity of 500 kw [kilowatts], double the level before 1975. However, it is not used to generate electricity, only for research and production of radioactive materials.

During the past decades, the reactor has been operating safely causing no environmental hazard to Da Lat. Many foreign scientists have come to help the institute. The IAEA has also extended its effective assistance. At present, thousands of patients at hospitals across the country are receiving treatment with radioactive isotopes supplied by the Da Lat reactor. The institute also produces technetium to supply remote regions. In other countries, technetium is produced only at reactors of at least ten megawatts. This achievements of the Da Lat Institute has rejoiced IAEA experts.

In 1992, IAEA supplied 40 of the fund for several research projects. [sentence as received] The institute used almost all this aid to buy equipments to gradually upgrade its capacity.

The institute has sold its services three times cheaper than in other countries. For instance, it analyzed samples for various economic branches, produced equipments to determine the quality of gold, studied the antiradioactive capacity of Linh Chi mushroom, etc.

Overhaul of the reactor and modernisation of control is the main task of the institute in 1993. At the same time, it continues to supply radioactive material to various hospitals.

Over the past ten years, the more than 200 personnel of the institute have displayed high devotion and self-reliance in their work.

Dr. Tran Ha Anh, director of the institute, is a French-trained doctor of nuclear physics. With assistance from the IAEA, many young engineers at the institute have been sent to study abroad or to work as experts in developing countries.

WFP Forest Planting Projects Said Successful

BK0410072993 Hanoi VNA in English 0704 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct.4—All the six projects in silviculture funded by the World Food Programme [WFP] since 1977 have been well performed, according to WFP experts.

WFP has invested in these projects a total capital of 86,663,000 USD, according to the Ministry of Forestry.

The biggest is a four year project (condenamed 4304) involving the provision of 115,000 tonnes of food to help Vietnam reforest 125,000 ha of denuded land in 13 coastal provinces. It only began last year but has already obtained good results.

The projects are aimed at improving the environment, economy and quality of life of the rural population by producing forest products on otherwise unproductive and barren land.

Within the framework of the three recent projects, codenamed 2870, 4126/q and 3352, a total of 421 cooperatives and 71,000 farmer households have received funding from WFP and 171,500 have been planted.

The planted areas have shown a high tree survival rate, and in some regions have become productive.

Thanks to WFP's help, a number of localities presently have covered their barren hills, and many farmer families have become better off throught forest farming, especially with the implementation of the land and forest allocation policy.

The afforested area, however, is still modest when the present loss of between 100,000 ha to 200,000 ha of forest per annum is considered.

Forest planting, therefore, should be more closely combined with measures to prevent deforestation.

Assessment of Archive Preservation Urged

BK3009032793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] The Government Office has made public a directive from the prime minister requesting that ministries, state commissions, other government organs, and people's committees in provinces and cities under the direct management of the central government review their 10-year implementation of the state regulations on preservation of national archives. The State Archive then issued detailed instructions on carrying out the prime minister's directive.

Many government sectors and localities have uniformly and urgently conducted the review in their areas. Some ministries, sectors, and localities, however, are still very slow in their review work or have only provided information relating to the review work in their office or their province. In order to execute the prime minister's directive strictly and manage the work of the national archives, the State Archive will conduct direct inspections in central and local organs on the results of reviewing their 10-year implementation of the state regulations on the preservation of national archives.

Can Tho Installs 9,000-Line Telephone Switchboard

BK3009041993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] An Alcatel 1,000M-10 telephone switchboard with a capacity of 9,000 lines was installed in the Can Tho Central Post Office on 25 September. This connects the province with the international and national telephone systems. The operation of this biggest electronic telephone switchboard in the Mekong River delta put an end to the communication jam between Can Tho with the nation and overseas.

The construction of the Can Tho Electronic Telephone Office had been prepared for many months before its official building work started on 16 July. The construction consisted of three main sections with the total cost of more than 65 billion dong to fully exploit the capacity of a modern electronic telephone switchboard. The Can Tho Post Office now offers 20 international and national services for telephone subscribers and users.

When the telephone switchboard is put into service, all post offices within the province can communicate with Can Tho via automatic telephone lines.

Australia

Canberra States 'Strong Support' for Yeltsin

BK0410060293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] The Australian Government has voiced strong support for Russia's embattled president, Boris Yeltsin. Linda Mottram reports from Canberra the violence on Moscow's streets has also prompted a warning to Australians not to travel to the Russian capital.

[Begin Mottram recording] Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, has reaffirmed strong backing for President Yeltsin and his efforts to strengthen democratic reforms in Russia. Senator Evans has described President Yeltsin as preparing ground for a new stage in Russia's political and economic transition. Senator Evans says it is particularly disturbing that supporters of rival president Aleksandr Rutskoy and parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov have resorted to violence when President Yeltsin has announced dates for both parliamentary and presidential elections. Senator Evans says such polls are the most appropriate method for the Russian people to express their political opinions in a democratic non-violent way. Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs has also cautioned Australian travelers against going to Moscow at this time. [end recording]

Lebanon's Birri Discusses Middle East Issues

NC2809204193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Sources close to Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and his delegation have affirmed that his official visit to Australia has been positive and fruitful. Speaker Birri and his delegation held a series of meetings at the Australian Federal Parliament in Canberra. These included talks with the chairman of the Legislative Authority and the chairmen of the Australian Senate's Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Committees and the Australian trade minister.

The discussions included ways of expanding economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, the Middle East's political situation, south Lebanon and UN Security Council Resolution 425, and the role that can be played by the Lebanese community in Australia.

During his meeting with the Australian Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, Birri urged the reopening of the Australian Embassy in Beirut, now that security and stability have been restored there. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the Middle East conflict, Speaker Birri said the solution should begin in Lebanon, not elsewhere, and that all agreements that disregard Lebanon's position are without value. He explained that Lebanon has always been the East's window on the West, the Arabs' window on the world, and the meeting place of cultures and civilizations.

Birri pointed out that Lebanon has been used to absorb the region's crisis, taking in more than 175,000 refugees on its territory. He noted that recent agreements have disregarded the existence of these refugees.

Concerning resistance activity, he said: Resistance is different from terrorism, which is unacceptable to us. Resistance started as a natural reaction to the occupation. Resistance is every nation's right. It is a right guaranteed by international law and norms. The ending of that resistance hinges on the withdrawal of Israel, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, and the securing of the Lebanese state's authority over all its territories.

He added: Our demands do not stop with implementing Resolution 425 or aiding the Lebanese authorities to establish their authority. Indeed, our demands are based on the need to foster a profound understanding and acknowledgement that the Palestinian refugees residing in Lebanon are the root of the Middle Eastern conflict. Any attempt to merge them in Lebanese society and resettle them in Lebanon will upset the country's demographic composition and irritate the nationalist sentiments of the refugees themselves. Consequently, they will oppose any resettlement agreement and will feel compelled to use their place of residence as a springboard for action designed to return them to their homeland and territories. Such action will threaten both Lebanese and regional stability. [passage omitted]

Regarding the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, Speaker Birri explained that Syria is waiting until Lebanese authorities announce that they have become capable of maintaining security and stability before it withdraws its forces. [passage omitted]

Trade Deficit Rises 29 Percent in Aug

BK2909061493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Figures just released in Australia show a sharp deterioration in trade. In seasonally adjusted terms, the current account deficit for August rose 29 percent to Australian $1.4 billion—that is about U.S. $1 billion. The Bureau of Statistics says exports fell during the month by four percent, while merchandise imports rose two percent. Exports of meat, wool, transport equipment, coal, and gold were all down in August, while metal ores and minerals recorded a modest rise. Meanwhile, imports of fuel products reached their highest level since October 1982—up 81 percent.

Tonga

Commoner MP on Proposal To Dump Toxic Wastes

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[Text] Auckland, Sept 27 (AFP)—A plan to store thousands of barrels of toxic waste from California on a volcanic island in Tonga could provoke a revolt in the Pacific kingdom, a commoner member of the Legislative Assembly said Sunday.

"The pressure from the people will stop the proposal," said Akilisi Pohiva, who leads a commoners movement to end the king's absolute control over the royal and noble-backed assembly.

Details of the plan to use the island of Niuafo'ou are sketchy, but Prime Minister Baron Vaea admitted to the assembly he had received a proposal to store 35,000 barrels—about one million gallons (3.8 million litres)—a year there. He said the proposal called for dumping a total of 350,000 barrels over ten years, for which Tonga would receive 20 pa'anga (14 dollars) a barrel. A New Zealand businessman is believed to be behind the plan.

Niuafo'ou, 400 miles (640 kilometres) north of the capital Nuku'alofa, has a long history of violent volcanic eruptions. Islanders were evacuated in 1946 when an eruption seriously damaged most of the island and wrecked most homes.

In the 1980s, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, said he wanted to turn the island into a storage facility for Iranian crude oil.

Vaea said of the latest proposal that all adults on Niuafo'ou, which has a total population of 250, would have jobs maintaining the toxic waste dump. But Pohiva said he had heard reports of total opposition to the proposal, both in Tonga and Niuafo'ou, an appraisal backed up by fellow commoner MP Viliame (Willie) Fukofuka after a visit to the island. "They strongly rejected the project proposal," Pohiva said, adding that "nobody knows what is in the waste. The pressure from the people will stop the proposal," he said, adding that Fukofuka had made a statement in the house warning of chaos and civil war if the proposal was accepted.

"I think Willie is right, I agree with him," Pohiva said. "The implication is that people will revolt against the government."

He said there was a belief outside Tonga that the country was an easy target for such projects. People kept coming to Tonga with such proposals because they knew the Tongan Government would listen to them, Pohiva said, adding that once the king had agreed, his ministers would follow suit.

The proposal to turn Niuafo'ou into a toxic waste dump was made before Vaea attended the annual South Pacific Forum in Nauru last month. In the forum's final communique—which Vaea signed—leaders "expressed particular concern about the possible disastrous impact on the people and natural resources of the region of the importation into, and the uncontrolled and unregulated movement of wastes." The communique also said numerous approaches had been made to certain South Pacific countries by "unscrupulous foreign waste dealers for the import [words indistinct], and the treatment within the region of, hazardous and other wastes produced in other countries."

In the late 1980s an American and the king's daughter proposed bringing a container a day of toxic wastes such as resins, paint residues and glues from California to be destroyed in an incinerator to be built in Tonga. The plant was supposed to have conformed to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards. The length of time and high costs involved in building such a plant in the United States were the reasons cited for installing it here. Civil servants who opposed the scheme found themselves subject to police investigation, but criticism of the proposal proved effective and the scheme was dropped a week later.

In 1989, the government-controlled TONGA CHRONICLE quoted the king as saying a delegation from Iran was planning to drain the lagoon around Niuafo'ou dry, cover it with a layer of concrete and install a storage depot for Iranian crude oil.

The king said Mexico was interested and that if the deal worked out "earnings would be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. That's a big step forward." So far nothing has come of that proposal.